

Ethiopian Baptist hijacked on TWA 847

By Bob Stanley

LOS ANGELES (BP)—A 33-year-old Ethiopian Baptist physician sat quietly behind the speaker's platform at the 15th Baptist World Congress July 5 and told how trust in God had seen him through 33 hours as a passenger aboard hijacked TWA Flight 847 before his release in Algiers Saturday, June 15.

Berhanu Habte, a layman and chairman of the Baptist Evangelical Association of Ethiopia, was on his way to the congress in Los Angeles when he boarded the TWA plane in Athens, Greece.

A week before, during a daily prayer time, the thought of a possible hijacking crossed his mind. "I dismissed it from my mind because I normally have positive thoughts. It was so strange."

But the next day, again in his prayer time, "it (the thought of hijacking) came again, very clearly, and came at a time when I was not bothered with details about the trip. I took it seriously and prayed about it. I said, 'I will commit my way into his hand.' And he takes control."

From the time he realized the TWA plane was actually being hijacked—about 10 minutes after leaving Athens—"the first thing that came into my mind was this prayer. To think that I had committed this to God was very consoling. From the outset, I trusted."

Later, on the final leg of the flight, Habte lost his wedding ring and "a few dollars" to the terrorists.

"I had a good time of meditation. I lost my wedding ring. I can lose my belongings, can be separated from

family and friends, but nobody can take my salvation in Christ," he said.

"I did not have bad feelings toward the hijackers. In fact, at that point, I got very excited. A change came over my life . . . a joy, boldness, assurance. I told the people around me 'Have faith in God, he will deliver us.'"

The man sitting next to him, whose wife had been taken off the plane with most of the other women, asked him if he were a Christian then called out to another passenger, "Have faith in God—me and this man here are Christians. Everything will be all right."

Until he agreed to an interview July 5, he had not talked with anyone from the press. Not until the hostages had been released, he said, did he feel he could talk about his experiences on

the flight.

Habte was one of five persons who gave brief testimonies during a Baptist World Aid report. In his account of the needs in his country, he made no mention of the hijacking. But Archie R. Goldie referred to it in closing remarks.

Habte said the young American killed by the hijackers was seated two rows behind him (in row 13). Robert Dean Stethem, a U.S. Navy petty officer and diver, was beaten during the plane's first stop in Beirut.

"They took him off in Beirut. He was beaten and the stewardess helped him back to his seat. Her shirt was stained with his blood. The hostess offered him some aspirin."

But Habte heard the young man for the last time when he was moved up into the first class section of the plane. "I heard a feeble groaning from the first class coach, but I couldn't make out anything else." He said he did not hear when Stethem was shot.

Habte's trip began on an Ethiopian Airlines plane at 1 p.m. June 13 in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital where he works.

When the plane landed in Algiers on June 15, the passengers were told the Greek government had promised to free one of their friends who had been detained in Athens.



Berhanu Habte, chairman of the Baptist Evangelical Association of Ethiopia, was enroute to the United States and the 15th Baptist World Congress when Shiite terrorists hijacked the plane.

When the Lebanese who had been held in Athens arrived about 6 p.m. Habte and those with him were released.

The next day, Habte and the others were taken on a chartered plane to Paris. He said everyone was "really very helpful." They got new passports from the American embassy, but were told to avoid press interviews for fear it would jeopardize the remaining hostages.

Stanley writes for Foreign Mission Board.

The Baptist Record

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Taking very, very careful aim

Jim Richard Carter, 7, takes careful aim with the 22 rifle while his father Rick Carter explains sighting. The senior Carter teaches at Holmes Junior College and is music director at First

Church, Durant. He read about the Central Hills Lad-Dad weekend in the **Baptist Record**. (More pictures on page 5.) Photo by Tim Nicholas.

SBC "capitalization" is completed

AUGUSTA, Maine (BP) — This New England capital city became the 50th state capital in the United States to be home to a Southern Baptist Church June 23 when Cushnoc Baptist Chapel became Cushnoc Baptist Church. Significantly, the church is located on 5.6 acres which overlooks the capitol building.

"The establishment of any church is significant, but Cushnoc Baptist Church has some additional

psychological significance in that it says Southern Baptists are involved at the center of each state," said James H. Currin, director of the Baptist Convention of New England, who spoke at the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sweet of Augusta wrote the Home Mission Board in April 1982, requesting a Southern Baptist church. Robert Brindle, director of missions for the Upper New England Baptist Association, and

Dolores Thomas, church planter for Maine, responded.

In June 1982 a home Bible study was begun followed by Backyard Bible Clubs.

In December of that year Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Lewiston, Maine, sponsor of the work in Augusta, licensed Mike Allen to the ministry and charged him with the pastorate of the Cushnoc Baptist Chapel.

Tennessee, Burkina Faso complete five-year work

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)—Tennessee Baptists joined other Southern Baptists during Foreign Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center to celebrate the completion of a five-year development project conducted by Tennessee Baptist volunteers in Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta).

The five-year development project focused on the Sanwabo area of Burkina Faso, about 100 miles east of the capital city of Ouagadougou. The project involved water development, including building a lake and digging deep-water wells. It also involved agricultural training, vocational training, health care and health education, literacy work, building projects, and evangelism.

Regarding the contribution Tennessee Baptists made during the five-year partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and Baptists in Burkina Faso, recently retired missionary Bryant Durham told the crowd, "The lame walk, the thirsty have pure water to drink, the hungry are full . . . the sick are ministered unto, the illiterate to whom the Word of God was a closed book can now read that Word, the poor and the rich and many others have the gospel preached to them as a result of the 38 new churches and mission stations that were established by the coming of these volunteers."

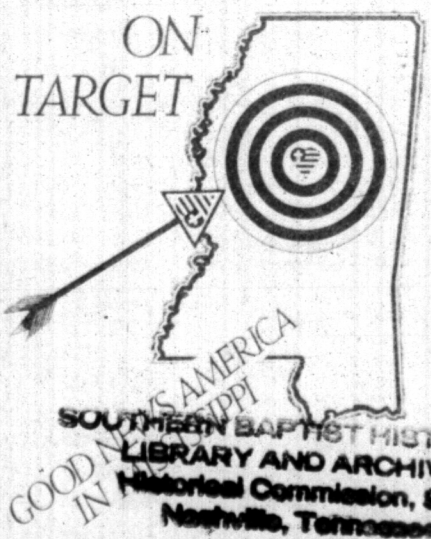
"They touched and helped to change the lives of hundreds of people, some of them for eternity," Durham said.

The partnership among Tennessee Baptists, the Foreign Mission Board, and Burkina Faso was the major focus of the week's Saturday night ser-

vice, but for about 150 volunteers who were among about 500 Tennesseans who went to Burkina Faso during the five-year project, the whole week was a reunion and a celebration.

The 150 volunteers and their spouses met on Saturday afternoon for a special program and a banquet featuring testimonies from several volunteers and addresses by Durham; Tom Madden, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

"They (the volunteers) have gone and come back with changed lives," Madden explained. "They've shared that testimony. They have gone into almost every Tennessee Baptist church and many civic clubs and schools and they have left a beautiful testimony of faith in Christ."



Bold Missions emphases: See pages 7-10.

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Gearing up for revival

Simultaneous revivals throughout Mississippi in April of next year will be the culmination of a concept to be known as On Target, which is being introduced in this issue of the Baptist Record.

On Target, Good News America in Mississippi will be launched Sept. 1 with what will be called Super September. This will be the opening emphasis in a series of emphases that will lead up to the April revivals. In April Mississippi will join with 36 other state conventions that cover all 50 states in simultaneous revival efforts. The theme for these simultaneous revivals will be "Good News, America, God Loves You."

As a part of this issue of the Baptist Record there is a four-page pull-out section on pages 7, 8, 9, and 10. It is designed to acquaint the readers with the total concept and the various emphases that will comprise it. It is suggested that readers preserve this section for future reference.

The opening emphasis is Super September, which is a part of the Southern Baptist Convention's 8.5 by '85 promotion. This has been an effort to reach a nationwide Sunday School enrollment of 8.5 million by September of this year. This would mean an increase in enrollment of 500,000 nationwide and an increase in Mississippi Sunday School enrollment of 20,000.

Because of the involvement of Sunday School in evangelism in the churches, the September emphasis is an important first step in the Good News America concept in Mississippi and across the nation. Sept. 1 is suggested as a day of prayer for the Sunday School to be followed by two weeks of

contacting prospects. Then Sept. 15 is projected as high attendance day. Sept. 22 is proposed as enrollment Sunday and Sept. 29 as Celebration Sunday.

The On Target concept is designed to support Bold Mission Thrust, the worldwide witnessing effort adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1977. The idea is to make a Christian witness available to everyone in the world by the year 2000. Oct. 6 is projected as Bold Missions Thrust Launch Day. Then all of October and November is suggested for Planned Growth in Giving emphasis. Planned Growth in Giving is the Southern Baptist program adopted as a means of financing Bold Missions Thrust. The challenge is to have an increase of 7.5 percent in Cooperative Program giving by the year 2000 and to have 75 percent of total Cooperative Program gifts going to home and foreign missions. The Mississippi Baptist Convention has voted to continue to increase its percentage going to Southern Baptist causes by one-half of one percent each year until 2000, bringing the total percentage for the state to 43 percent.

Moving into 1986, Jan. 12 is being projected as Witness Commitment Day. Then training Sunday School workers in evangelism will begin on Jan. 19. The goal is to have 1 million Sunday School workers in the nation trained to be witnesses. The goal in Mississippi is to train 9,000 persons

per year for five years.

That leads to the simultaneous revivals in April. The proposed dates are April 6 through 13 for South Mississippi and April 20 to 27 for North Mississippi. This period could be one of the most important times in Southern Baptist Convention history. Through the years it has been noted that such concentrated and concerted efforts in evangelism have produced more baptisms than when there were no emphases.

Throughout the nation the goal is to have 80 percent of the churches involved in the revivals. In Mississippi the goal is for 1,700 churches in 75 associations to be involved. For our state the goal is more like 85 percent of the churches.

Missions and evangelism, however, have been the main thrust of our existence throughout our history. Evangelism has been the primary thrust of the churches, and the convention was organized to provide a more effective and efficient way of carrying our missions endeavors. And while evangelism is primarily a church emphasis, it has been noted that the results are more dramatic when the churches move in concert through an organized effort.

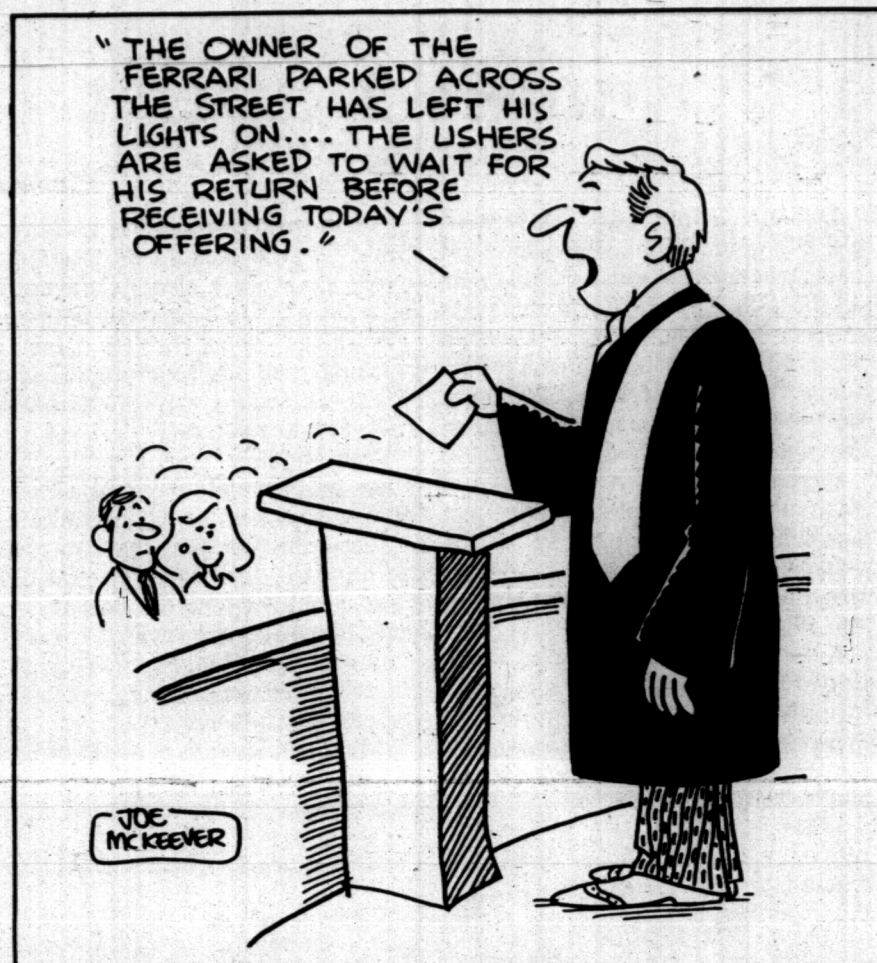
So we are embarking on a very significant endeavor this year in preparing for the simultaneous revivals that are scheduled for next year. There will be a great deal of pro-

motion concerning those revivals between now and then. To this point, however, though the effort to obtain commitments from churches has already begun, there has not been a great deal of success through the mail. Hopefully, this will change through the weeks that are just ahead.

Plans need to be made because, with the revivals being concentrated in such a short time period, the revival leaders will need to be scheduled well in advance. Having the meetings at two different periods will allow church staff members to move

into the other zone for revivals, but the vocational evangelists need to be remembered during this period also. They depend on revivals for their livelihood, and the simultaneous nature of this endeavor will cut down on their possibilities. So they should be considered as revival teams are being formed.

Across the Southern Baptist Convention it is hoped that there will be 560,000 baptisms as a result of Good News America, God Loves You. Surely we all will bend our efforts to insure the fact that there will be no less.



Guest opinion . . .

Illegal drugs in Mississippi

By Chester L. Quarles
Part 2 of 2 parts

Tremendous danger exists with drugs. In cases where the chemicals are not properly manufactured, there may be toxic (poisonous) materials still in the drugs. The toxicity mixed with hallucinogenic quality of the drugs virtually insures incredible danger to the user and those around him.

Florida and California police authorities have demonstrated that the largest cash business in their state is the smuggling and selling of illegal drugs. I personally believe that this is true in Mississippi, although I cannot prove this belief.

Criminals at the top of the criminal hierarchy get tremendous returns on their investments in drugs. A grocer may get a return of five to six percent on his high volume goods. A jeweler may mark up a diamond by 300 to 400 percent. Drug criminals have little overhead and may glean 1,000 percent or more for each load.

There have been several PCP factories in Mississippi. With \$25,000 in chemicals, a skilled chemist in such a factory can turn these chemicals into PCP worth \$50 million in only one week.

In 1980, the media lauded a \$290,000 fine levied against a really big Florida drug trafficker. He paid his fine in

cash and left the courthouse with a smile. He could afford to smile because he made that much profit every day or two. His fine was like the average Mississippian paying a \$50 speeding ticket. It never even influenced the quality of his life.

Drugs are being subtly marketed to the American public. Television shows and the Hollywood set portray many drug scenes today that might lead the unknowing and the ignorant into thinking that drug usage is all right and that most good people do it.

The marketing plan is that drugs make you feel good, stimulate or excite you, help you cope, and give you a better quality life. But this is all a lie, a gross distortion, and a myth. These drugs hurt us! They decrease our ability to cope. They accentuate and multiply any personal problems we already have. They often stimulate or depress us to unacceptable levels.

Mississippi is a Mecca for all forms of organized crime, especially drug smuggling. We don't have the tools, the laws, or, sometimes, the skills to fight these devious "principalities" (Ephesians 6:12). Quite often these upper class criminals are highly skilled and have the knowledge and ability to avoid arrest and imprisonment.

Mississippi does not have the laws we need. The RICO (Racketeer, Influenced and Corrupt Organization) Act in 1983 improved police officers' ability to fight financial crimes such as drugs. But more is needed, particularly a wiretapping law. Wiretapping is an ugly word to many Americans, but we need it to fight drug trafficking and to get the big boys who never come near the drugs or those who deal it directly.

As a police officer as well as a theoretical criminologist, I have seen the tragic social consequences of drug abuse. I see it also as an economic crime where poison is being marketed to Americans as a chemical to help improve the quality of life.

As a Christian, however, I know that there is no substitute for the abundant life through Christ Jesus, my Lord. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. He came that we might have the preferred life, a quality life.

A Christian doesn't want beer, whiskey, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, PCP, or LSD. A Christian doesn't want altered reality. A Christian doesn't want a chemical consciousness that affects the conscience and the spirits.

A Christian wants Jesus! He wants his abundant life, his grace, his

mercy, and his pardon. With Jesus as Lord, each of us can live the preferred life so beautifully described in God's word.

Christians don't have to be weak and passive. We were given offensive weapons. In Ephesians 6:13 we read, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." In the next four verses, the weapons are listed as the loins girt about with truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, God's word. Completing the preparation for adversity, Paul reminds us in the 18th verse to pray always.

Let us teach our young people of "all ages" that the Apostle Paul spoke well of fighting all forms of evil. He taught us to avoid peer pressure, whether "Come on," "Everyone else is," "Don't be a sissy," or any of the other trite phrases that have sent people away from God since the time of Adam.

We must learn to recognize drug abuse. We must ask people to give up their hope for Jesus, to put it away forever, to seek strength and guidance (Continued on page 14)

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Education Commission determines allocations

By Don McGregor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Education Commission, in its meeting this month, heard reports from the three colleges in the state, established a budget request, determined capital funds allocations based on the budget request, and heard from the Board of Ministerial Education and its own church relations subcommittee.

As a result of the report from William Carey College, the commission endorsed the college's request for approval for a building project at its Gulf Coast campus.

In January the Carey trustees approved plans to spend \$2.7 million to expand the coast campus to establish daytime residential facilities. The

20-acres coast campus was purchased from a military school in 1976 and has operated since then as an evening school for the most part. It was explained that with the increase in population on the coast there were more demands to expand the daytime offerings and facilities.

The plans call for construction of 96 two-bedroom apartments, each to accommodate up to four single students or a married couple. The units will be furnished and contain kitchens so that there will be no need for central food services.

The provisions include being constructed at cost by the W. R. Fairchild Construction Company to be financed by securing \$2.7 million in tax-exempt notes provided by The Peoples Bank of Biloxi, with South Mississippi Bank of Hattiesburg purchasing at least \$500,000 of those notes.

The repayment period is scheduled for 20 years, and the repayment is expected to be realized from rent income. The funds will be provided by a first mortgage on the buildings and on five acres of the campus land on which the buildings are being built. The project is under construction, and completion dates range from Sept. 1 to Jan. 1, 1986. The 96 units will be divided equally in four buildings.

The Fairchild interests have pledged \$500,000 on the project toward the \$2.7 million total. The construction is expected to cost \$2.3 million, and the remaining \$400,000 is to be used for furnishings.

In addition the college plans to spend about \$200,000 for renovation of existing facilities, according to Ralph Noonkester, president. This will include library expansion, a computer

(Continued on page 4)

State native joins Foreign Board staff

RICHMOND, Va. — William L. Morgan, a native of Drew, Miss., became associate director, orientation and project management, in the volunteer enlistment department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 19.



Morgan, a graduate of Mississippi College, had been pastor of Wells Station Baptist Church

(Continued on page 5)

The Baptist Record

Executive Committee endorses Carey building

By Don McGregor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee, in its meeting last week in Jackson, elected John McMullen to replace Truitt Roberts on the Convention Board, approved a budget proposal to be made to the Convention Board for consideration by the convention, authorized a study of the Baptist Building telephone system, proposed a resolution to the Convention Board supporting a building program at William Carey College's coast campus, and determined the use of \$15,000 in Language and Christian Social Missions funds.

Roberts, who was minister of music at First Church, Starkville, and a member of the Convention Board, died of a heart attack on the Saturday before Easter Sunday of this year. McMullen, who was elected to replace Roberts, is a resident of Sturgis. He will serve until the Mississippi Baptist Convention and then will be eligible for election by the convention.

The budget figure of \$18,550,000 will be recommended to the Convention Board. This is a 6 percent increase over the current budget. If approved by the Convention Board, it will be considered by the convention in November.

The Executive Committee authorized an expenditure of \$18,000 from the Convention Board's fund balance to be used in studying the Baptist Building's telephone system. It was explained that changes will become necessary as equipment that is now being leased must be purchased in the future. It was estimated that annual savings would amount to more than \$19,000 as a result of the study.

The \$15,000 is left in the Language and Christian Social Missions accounts of the Cooperative Missions Department because of vacancies in New Choctaw, Jackson, Gulf Coast, and Hinds-Madison associations. Of that amount, \$3,500 will be allocated to Gulf Coast Association to apply on the position of associational religious education director for seven months. The remaining \$11,500 will be used for the promotion of On Target — Good News America in Mississippi. This is a nationwide Southern Baptist Convention concept relating to the Good News America, God Loves You simultaneous revivals in April of 1986 across the nation and the contributing emphases leading up to it.

The resolution that will be proposed to the Convention Board concerning William Carey College's coast campus building project involves a loan of \$2.7 million to build and furnish student housing facilities. The proposed resolution explains that the student body at the coast campus is increasing with the increase in

population in the area. The buildings and the land on which they will be located will be mortgaged to secure the loan. In an earlier meeting the Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention also had taken action to support the loan and building program. The building program is under way by Fairchild Construction Company, which plans to

contribute \$500,000 of the \$2.7 million to the construction, it was announced.

The Executive Committee members discussed the possibility of suggesting that Evangelism conferences each year be held in Jackson churches because of the more central location. The Executive Committee will meet again on Aug. 26.

Village names director staff, child development

John H. Nowlin of Brandon has been named director of staff and child development at the Baptist Children's Village. He began work July 1.



According to Paul N. Nunnery, executive director of the Village, Nowlin's duties will include psychotherapy and related clinical service to children and youths in the care of the Village, "as well as substantial involvement in

the orientation, training, and strengthening of houseparent and cottage staff."

Nowlin goes to the Village from the staff of the Pascal Clinic in Jackson where he has served as a counselor for 13 years. The clinic's founder, Gerald R. Pascal, served as the Village's consulting psychologist for more than 20 years. Nowlin has worked with Village children since 1973.

Prior to his duties with the Pascal Clinic, Nowlin was a staffer with the Mississippi Mental Health Center in Jackson; the Texas Child Guidance

(Continued on page 14)

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

August 2, 1985

Mississippi Coliseum
Jackson

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Introductions	Lloyd Lunceford
Prayer	Earl Kelly
Call to Worship	"Sing for Joy" Purcell
Youth Night Choir	
Youth Night Band	
Youth Night Handbells, Directed by Jerry Talley	
Congregational Praise	Bentley and Chasteen
Praise Music	Youth Night Band
	Directed by David Young
Choral Testimony	"We Are Called Christians" David Danner
	Youth Night Choir, Directed by Richard Joiner
Testimony	Kent Austin
Concert	Bentley and Chasteen
Message	Brian Harbour
Time of Decision and Commitment	Congregation
Prayer	

Some earlier correspondence mailed to Mississippi Baptists indicated the Youth Night program as being on Aug. 3. The correct date is Friday, Aug. 2.

World missions leader Marie Mathis dies

By D'Lesa Carroll

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Marie Wiley Mathis (Mrs. R. L.), past president of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, and perhaps "the" ultimate missions promoter died July 12 in Dalhart, Texas. Funeral services were held July 15 in Dalhart.



Mrs. Mathis' denominational leadership role in WMU work began in 1936, and she continued to serve as an influential Baptist leader over the next four decades.

A Texas native, Mathis' career originated in Texas WMU work, serving as executive secretary-treasurer and president of the organization. Close ties with Texas kept her at Baylor University in student activity work for 26 years.

Mathis steadily climbed the ladder to president of WMU, SBC, and held

the longest tenure in history — two terms totaling 13 years. Under Mathis' leadership membership in WMU reached 1,500,000 women and children.

She was the first woman elected as an officer of the Southern Baptist Convention, serving as second vice-president in 1963-64.

Mathis was also the only woman ever nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

During her term as WMU, SBC, president, Mathis held such positions as treasurer and president of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance and vice-president of the BWA.

While earning her living at Baylor University and serving as promotion division director on the WMU, SBC, staff, the bulk of Mathis' lifetime service was volunteer.

It was her stamina that led an interagency group to commit itself to a missions emphasis to end the decade of the 1970s. Thus, Mathis coined the

(Continued on page 14)

Mississippians take part in May, June partnership revivals

Those who participated in the second and third waves of evangelistic endeavors during May and June in the three countries of the Rio de la Plata are listed here. The Rio de la Plata is Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The April groups going to Argentina and Uruguay were listed May 30.

Those for May are as follows:

Nathan Barber, Bay St. Louis; Mike Dossett, Bay St. Louis; Harold G. Wilson, Prentiss; Johnny Collins, Union; Jimmy McCaleb, Jackson; Mrs. Jimmy McCaleb, Jackson; Frank Gunn, Biloxi; Gary Johnson, Skene; Frank Pevey Jr., Skene; D. A. Brown, Skene; Bobby Perry, Gulfport; James Tanner, Iuka; Purvis Cappleman, Iuka; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Mark C. Smith, Brookhaven; E. P. Baldwin, Corinth; Wayne Williams, Clinton; Mrs. Wayne Williams, Clinton; William Jenkins, Cleveland; James R. Walker, Pheba; Mrs. James R. Walker, Pheba; Edsel Cliburn, Union; Mrs. Pamela Cliburn, Union; Terrell D. Suggs, Union; James Mirrill Cassel, Union; Vernon Elmore, Corpus Christi, Texas; Mrs. Peggy Elmore, Corpus Christi, Texas; Mrs. Robilyn Pettis, Brandon; Guy Henderson, Jackson; Ray Ridgeway, Williamston, S.C.; Mrs. Lynne Ridgeway, Williamston, S.C.; Darrell Galey, Ocean Springs; Clifton Perkins, Jackson; William L. Barton, Pascagoula; Dennis Johnsey, Pascagoula; Jake Runnels, Pascagoula; John Dobie, Pascagoula; Hueston Adkins, Mendenhall; James King, Mendenhall; Allan Rankin, Mendenhall; Vince Smith, Meridian; Bill Jones, Meridian; Ron Gardner, Meridian; Bill Ferrell, Jackson; Paul E. Gay, Jackson; Debbie Cruse,

Jackson; Carlos Gruber, Nacogdoches, Texas; Bobby Beeson, Gulfport; D. C. Conner, Gulfport; J. K. Ham, Gulfport; Leon Emery, Jackson; Mrs. Jessie P. Emery, Jackson; Ingram Foster, Prentiss; Mrs. Bobbie Foster, Prentiss; Charley Westbrook, Vandalia, Ill.; Mrs. Darlene Westbrook, Vandalia, Ill.; Robert M. Carlisle, Biloxi; John Dale Jr., Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; and Mrs. John Dale, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Those for June are as follows:

Leo Barker, Baldwin; Ron Bennett, Woodville; Darris Bingham, San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. Darris Bingham, San Antonio, Texas; Rusty W. Burns, Baldwin; Judy L. Busbee, Brandon; Ben Carlisle, Woodville; Mrs. Etta Carlisle, Woodville; Rick Carter, Durant; Mrs. Rick Carter, Durant; Neil Davis, Baldwin; Eugene Dobbs, Philadelphia; Betty Dobbs, Philadelphia; Gene Fant, Hampton, Va.; Ramona Fant, Hampton, Va.; Dan Hall, Jackson; Mary E. Hawkins, Weir; Danny Ingram, Springdale, Ark.; Lyman E. Johnson, Brandon; Enloe M. Kée, Woodville; Carol Leake, Woodville; Asbury H. Martin, Cleveland; James O. Moore, Woodville; Becky Overby, Jackson; Bryan Parks, Trumann, Ark.; Jerry Pitts, Walnut Grove; Mrs. Jerry Pitts, Walnut Grove; James K. Purvis, Enterprise; Vanessa Purvis, Enterprise; Dwain Richardson, Trumann, Ark.; Robert C. Rogers, Taylorsville; Howard Smith, Vicksburg; Mrs. Howard Smith, Vicksburg; Charles B. Still, Woodville; Dan Stroud Jr., Drew; Mrs. Dan Stroud, Drew; Lannie Wilbourn, Brandon; and Keith Wilkinson, Jackson.



Johnson



Bunch



Bailey



Bozeman

Brotherhood will offer training for leaders

Training for leaders in all areas of Brotherhood work will be offered throughout the state in September.



Byler

These training sessions will be for Brotherhood directors, pastors, ministers of education, Baptist Men's officers, Crusader and Pioneer Royal Ambassador leadership, disaster relief workers, and those involved in Volunteers in Missions.

The 1985 area training sessions will take place on Sept. 9, 10, and 12 in 12 towns. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department has designed the session so that participants may attend the one most convenient. Each begins at 7 p.m.

The Sept. 9 sessions will take place at First Church, Coldwater; North Greenwood Church, Greenwood; and Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

The Sept. 10 meetings will be at First Church, Starkville; First Church, Meridian; and Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson.

The Sept. 12 meetings will be at First Church, Hattiesburg; Easthaven Church, Brookhaven; and First Church, Gulfport.

Leadership for the training sessions will be in three teams. Team one will be led by Jim Didlake, Mississippi RA consultant. His team will be at Tupelo, Starkville, and Brookhaven. The team includes Mac Johnson, Alabama Brotherhood director; Trent Grubbs,

pastor, Crenshaw Church, Crenshaw, Miss.; Dan Wynn, minister of education, First Church, Natchez; Mike Bailey, Home Mission Board consultant; and Lee Castle, pastor, Slayden Church, Slayden.

John Doler pastor, First Church, Raleigh, will convene Team Two. They will lead at Coldwater, Jackson, and Hattiesburg. The team includes Cameron Byler, Baptist Men director at the Brotherhood Commission; A. C. Johnson, retired president of Clarke College, and an area coordinator for Brotherhood; Karl Bozeman, Crusader RA director, Brotherhood Commission; David Bunch, Mission Service Corps director, HMB; and James Smith, pastor, Hollandale Church, Hollandale.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for Mississippi, will convene the third team. They will lead at Greenwood, Meridian, and Gulfport. Team members are Charles Ragland, Florida Brotherhood director; Farris Smith, pastor, First Church, Magnolia; Glenn Shows, minister of education, Woodlawn Church, Vicksburg; Ed Bullock, consultant with the Foreign Mission Board; and George Lee, director of missions, Marion, Walthall, and Lawrence Counties, and an area coordinator for Brotherhood.

Similar training sessions in 1983 and 1984 attracted 677 and 427 men, respectively.

Music winners will perform at Gulfshore

Mendelssohn's unfinished oratorio from "Christus" will be performed during the Mississippi Baptist Music Leadership Conference, at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this weekend.

Musicians from South Mississippi are invited to perform the oratorio at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 27. Milfred Valentine, chairman of the music department at Jones Junior College, will direct. There will be a rehearsal at 9:30 that morning. Musical scores will be provided.

Another special feature of the Music Leadership Conference, which takes place July 24-27 at the Pass Christian conference center, will be the performance of the music which won the statewide music writing competition.

Lori McDade of Jackson, will perform her vocal solo, "Simple Truth." Edwina Still of Woodville will perform on the keyboard her instrumental work, an arrangement of "Come Thou Fount."

Nedra Carter of Durant will play her piece while her husband Rick Carter sings the vocal solo, "A Holy Man." Ann Yates of Vicksburg will perform instrumentally her choral response, "Hear Now Our Prayers."

And the conference choir will perform the works of Wayne Carter of Saltillo and Randy Weeks of Columbus. Carter's choral work is "Song of Worship, this Hour." Weeks' hymn text is entitled, "Called to Service," to be sung to the tune of Hyfrydol (same tune as "Jesus: What a Friend for Sinners.")

The less a person knows, the more likely he is to be sure he's right.

When life knocks us to our knees, we are in a perfect position to pray.

Commission determines allocations

(Continued from page 3)

center, and classrooms in the McMullan Learning Resources Center. There will also be acoustical treatment, central heating and cooling, and painting in the Parker Hall classroom building. There will be a refurbished building for a student center and one for Baptist Student Union activities. The plan is also to complete the restoration of the campus swimming pool and the Fairchild Administration Center to add offices, art studios, and the Gillespie Mississippi Art Collection.

The first term summer enrollment at Carey was reported as 965 compared with 909 for the same period last year.

At Blue Mountain College the enrollment for the 1984-85 academic session, including both fall and spring sessions and the first term of the summer session was reported as 489, which is an increase over the 470 of

the same period of a year ago. President Harold Fisher reported that 70 percent of the students were Southern Baptists and 90 percent were Mississippians.

Fisher reported on BSU work by Blue Mountain students in Baltimore and Houston, that seven students were named as summer missionaries, and that the Blue Mountain BSU had raised \$8,120 for summer missions with a goal of \$7,500.

Tuition at Blue Mountain for the 1985-86 session will be raised \$6 per semester hour to \$76. Also there will be a unified fee of \$1,250 for full-time students who register for from 12 to 16 semester hours. This represents \$76 per semester hour for 15 semester hours plus a registration fee of \$110. Students registering for less than 12 hours will pay at the rate of \$76, as will those registering for more than 16 hours.

Fisher called attention to the Small Church Leadership Conference held

on the Blue Mountain campus in March, which was attended by 500 persons.

The college awarded 78 degrees in its spring commencement.

President Lewis Nobles of Mississippi College reported a first summer term enrollment of 1,065. The college awarded 497 degrees at its spring commencement. Of these there were 78 master's degrees and 94 doctor of jurisprudence degrees.

Nobles reported annual fund contributions of \$1,841,461.

Weaver McCracken is BSU director at Mississippi College. He reported \$11,000 raised for missions projects and 16 summer missionaries appointed.

Nobles noted that the graduates of the School of Law at the college on the 1985 bar examination achieved a pass rate of 96 percent on all takes and 100 percent on retakes.

He announced that Mr. and Mrs. M.

(Continued on page 5)

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Dads, lads camp at Central Hills

A weekend ago, about 50 people participated in a Dad-Lad campout at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko. Tent camping, and a variety of experiences offered fathers and sons special times together.



In an impromptu canoe race, Cody Jones, 7, and his father Barry Jones came in first ahead of the father-son team of Cory Moore, 8, and James Moore. Jones, of Adaton Church,

Starkville, is an information officer with the Cooperative Extension Service. Moore, of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, is a commercial loan officer with the Bank of Mississippi.



Mark Smith, Central Hills counselor and a student at Holmes Junior College, draws a crowd as he hypnotizes a chicken in the Central Hills barnyard. Yes, hypnotizes a chicken. Mark is the son of George Smith, pastor of Carrollton Church. (Tim Nicholas photos).

Commission determines . . .

(Continued from page 4)
W. Perry of Philadelphia have established the Perry Academic Awards for the purpose of recognizing scholastic achievement, leadership, citizenship, creative ability, activities, and moral character. Also, he noted, a new harp has been donated to the music department by Col. and Mrs. Almus Polsgrove of Shannon in memory of their daughter.

Nobles also reported on Clarke College, which has been merged with Mississippi College. He noted that the headcount at Clarke had remained

stable from the previous year at 207. There was, he said, an increase in freshman and sophomore students which resulted in a full-time equivalent increase from 138 in 1983-84 to 151 for 1984-85. Summer school has enrolled 52 students as compared with 38 last year. The associate in arts degree was awarded to 23 students in the spring commencement, and 20 students completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College through the MC at Clarke program.

(Continued on page 6)

State native . . .

(Continued from page 3)

in Memphis, Tenn., since 1981. Before that, he and his wife, the former Noreta Smith of Memphis, served 16 years as Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

In his new post, Morgan is responsible for orienting Foreign Mission Board volunteers going overseas for less than four months. For projects which involve a large number of volunteers from one area, he will work with state or local leadership in providing orientation.

Morgan was born in Drew, but moved with his family to Memphis when he was young. He received master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

He and his wife have three grown children.



Chris Baygents, 7½, gets help in mounting his horse at Central Hills; stable from Johnny Almond. Almond, retired from civil service and Alcoa, is Brotherhood director at First Church, Waynesboro.

Baptist disaster relief teams 'answer' call from Red Cross

Help wanted

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat, near Kosciusko, reports that he needs help from Baptist men in taking down the camp at the end of the season. On Friday, Aug. 9, he needs a group of men with pick up trucks to take down the tents, roll them up, and pack them away.

The next day, Aug. 10, he needs another group, also with pick up trucks, to scrub and wash down the tarps that go over the tents. He already has cleaning equipment.

To volunteer, phone Dan West at 289-9730.

West also notes that he could use some male and female peafowl for the camp's stock, and a backhoe with a front end loader.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Between 6,000-10,000 Californians dead, 40,000-50,000 needing medical attention, and another one million seeking help. The national Red Cross office in Washington wanted to know how Southern Baptists could respond.

That was the situation when Cameron Byler, the new coordinator of Baptist Men's disaster relief efforts, answered his telephone at the Brotherhood Commission.

"It was a nationwide simulated exercise — FEMA Response '85," explains Byler. FEMA is the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"It was a table-top exercise where everything was done by phone. We do this type of exercise occasionally to increase readiness." The scenario June 18 was an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale had pum-

meled southern California.

"The Red Cross called us, and I called four state Brotherhood directors who are responsible for disaster relief work in their states. Those states responded immediately, saying they could move vans and crews in 24 to 48 hours."

State men in Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana were the only ones Byler called for the drill, but quickly added other states would be asked for assistance in a real disaster. "I simply called four states at random," explained the director of Baptist Men and Senior Baptist Men.

Paul Harrell, disaster relief director for Mississippi Baptists, said the Mississippi unit could be on the road with a crew within three hours, depending on contact of the crew by phone.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI celebrates her 159th ANNIVERSARY August 18, 1985

All former members and friends are invited to share in the day of festivities, including former pastors, Dr. B. Frank Smith, Rev. James B. Riley, and Dr. William T. Crosby.

Afternoon services include musical concerts of former Ministers of Music, and our own musical groups. For more information, call (601) 783-3391.

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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

A taste of Chicago

I have ridden the City of New Orleans from Jackson to Chicago; I have slept in a pullman, off and on, and watched the sun's orange-pink ball rise over flat fields in Illinois.

I have accepted a wake-up coffee from a porter named Jeff, and I have eaten a Monsieur Sandwich for breakfast.

I have met a Chicago cab driver who said his grandpa lives in Jackson, Mississippi. I have registered at the Westin Hotel in the center of Chicago's "magnificent mile," and I have slept in a king-sized bed on the tenth floor.

I have heard the Windy City's Mayor Washington say, "Welcome to Chicago, and to the annual convention of National Federation of Press Women." I have celebrated with Illinois Woman's Press Association its 100th birthday, as oldest of professional women writers in the country, and I have raised a lighted sparkler.

I have bought an all-weather coat at Marshall Field's for half price, and I have gazed on the merchandise of Neiman-Marcus and dared to lift a price tag or two — the simple little pink and black dress, \$810, the red wool suit, \$1,113.

I have eaten at a sidewalk cafe, in the midst of pink flowerbeds and ritzy customers, and found a bug in my salad, alive and kicking. I have eaten a Fourth of July breakfast in the pumping station across from the "castellated Gothic" yellow limestone Water Tower which survived the great Chicago fire of 1871, and I have watched the multi-media extravaganza "Here's Chicago!" I have looked in disbelief at a hollow log pipe like those once said to have carried water through the city.

I have photographed people in the Water Tower park — an old couple on a bench, a drunk asleep on the grass, a little boy chasing a pigeon. I have photographed the red, white, and blue wreath beside a soldier's grave and the American flag beside the Chicago River.

I have bought a necklace at Lord and Taylor's for Karen's 30th birthday.

I have seen a little of Chicago from the inside of a Gray Line bus and a lot of it from the top of the Sears Tower, 1,323 feet, 103 stories from the ground.

I have tasted Italian lemonade, peach flavor, and smelled the stink of fish in a grocery store in Chinatown.

I have heard young Bill Brashler talk brashly of his successes in freelance writing and thought, "If he can, why can't I?"

I have heard Edward Bassett, dean of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, plead for integrity, compassion, understanding in journalism, and I have heard Paul Davis, news director of WGN Radio and WGN Television, talk about the importance of the First Amendment.

I have sat next to Nicole Hollander, creator of the comic strip, "Sylvia," and laughed at her slide presentation. I have attended workshops on photojournalism (Dennis Wheeler, features editor, Star Newspapers) and inter-

viewing (Marx Gibson, editor, Kankakee Daily Journal) and furiously taken notes that I hope I can put into practice.

I have dined on the SS Milwaukee Clipper, docked at Navy Pier, and celebrated the Fourth with three Mississippi press women, Ruby Graham of Meridian, Fay Simmons of Tylertown, and Alice McCordle of Hattiesburg, our current president. I have reminisced about a night in the 60s when that same ship ferried me across Lake Michigan from Milwaukee to Muskegon.

I have seen a Mississippian, Mary Lou Webb of Meadville, elected as first vice president of National Federation of Press Women.

I have congratulated Sharon Wertz of Hattiesburg on being a national winner in the communications contest.

I have attended a reception on the 44th floor of John Hancock Center and looked down on an astounding assortment of skyscrapers; on varied and beautiful architecture; on emerald lawns and sapphire pools of penthouses; on a building where residential units begin at \$245,000; on museums and a planetarium; on the green line of Grant's Park and Lincoln's Park, the white curve of beaches; and the blue sweep of Lake Michigan, like a coverlet embroidered with white sailboats and yachts.

I have read the signs, "A Taste of Chicago," advertising a food festival, and failed to indulge.

I have felt disappointment at missing the fireworks display in Grant's Park, and I have felt exultation as I watched the night lightning leap around among the tops of the tall buildings, for man's display could not have held a candle to this one God was showing!

I have ridden in a taxicab with a driver from Korea and felt sorrow when he laughed and said, "No, I'm not a Christian."

I have walked through Union Station and mingled with the rich and poor and in-between, and talked with some from the pockets of poverty I know must exist in the city, but which I did not visit. I have read the sign, "Guard your pocketbooks. Be aware that thieves and pickpockets are everywhere."

I have sat waiting for a train, beside a young girl who said she came here from Vietnam after the war. I have heard her say that she worships Buddha, and I have told her that I worship Christ, and answered her questions about Christianity.

I have felt like a sardine, packed in the can of humanity longing for Gate S28 to open and release us to the coaches of the City of New Orleans.

I have read Frank Lloyd Wright's 1939 prediction, "Eventually Chicago will be the most beautiful great city left in the world."

I have had a little taste of Chicago — but not enough even to break the crust.

Education Commission

(Continued from page 5)

Hardy Denham, president of the Board of Ministerial Education, reported that during the period from June 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985, the board disbursed \$68,304 in grants and \$13,146 in rent supplements to ministerial students. The grants amounts to \$11,340 at Blue Mountain, \$9,830 at Clarke, \$21,930 at Mississippi College, and \$25,204 at William Carey. The rent supplements were all at Mississippi College.

The commission adopted the report of its budget and audit committee which establishes guidelines for capital funds to the colleges for the fiscal years 1986-1990. The figures are based on a total allocation of \$600,000 per year from the state convention budget. The guide calls for 25 percent to be divided equally among the three colleges with each receiving \$50,000 per year. The remaining 75 percent, or \$450,000, would be distributed on the basis of a three-year average of full-time equivalent enrollments. The commission adopted the request that a five-year commitment be established without change for the allocation of the capital funds unless changed by the convention.

The 1984 convention established the capital allocation of \$3 million for 1986-1990, or \$600,000 per year.

The Education Commission's request for operating funds in the 1986 budget will be presented to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board when it meets in August.

Former Clarke professor dies

O. P. Moore, of Newton Bible professor at Clarke College, died July 20 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He was 80 years of age.

The funeral service was July 22 at First Church, Newton; and burial was at Cedarlawn Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Moore had been associated with Clarke College since 1948. He first was public relations director and later became a professor of Bible. Before going to Clarke he was Bible professor at Delta Junior College.

He was a native of Neshoba County and was pastor of at least 27 churches during his career. Included were churches at Florence, Star, New Augusta, Beaumont, Moorhead, Lake, and Goodwater.

Moore was also a high school teacher in Simpson, Neshoba, and Smith counties for four years.

He was a graduate of Mississippi College and received the master of theology and doctor of theology from New Orleans Seminary.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Jerry P. Moore of Philadelphia; and four sisters and a brother, all of Philadelphia.

Engagement: That short period of doting between dating and debting.

The most wonderful thing about a popular song is that it can't last.

Letters to the Editor

Is this liberalism?

Editor:

The letter "Is this liberalism?" (July 18, 1985) by David R. Rogers caused me to take another look at Roy Honeycutt's commentary on 2 Kings in the Broadman Bible Commentary. Apparently, Bro. Rogers takes issue with the words saga and legend as used by Honeycutt. Saga and legend are not "dirty words" in my vocabulary. As a matter of fact, Webster defines legend as a story handed down for generations and popularly believed to have an historical basis. I personally believe that the stories about Elisha were handed down for generations and do have an historical basis. Webster defines saga as a prose narrative of historic figures and events. The stories of Elisha are prose narratives of an historical person.

The "category of saga and legend" (Honeycutt's phrase) refers to stories as preached and told years after the fact. Referring to the Elisha stories, this would mean that the Holy Spirit inspired the writer of 2 Kings to record and interpret these events for his readers. As we know, few biblical events were recorded in Scripture at the moment they happened. Most were handed down through oral tradition until the Holy Spirit inspired a writer to put them into Scripture.

A great example of this process is the Gospel of John where John is inspired of God to record interpretations alongside the accounts of the events in the life of Jesus.

The tone of Bro. Rogers' letter leaves the reader with the impression that Honeycutt does not believe that Elisha raised up the dead child nor that Elisha caused the axe head to float. Actually, Honeycutt warns his readers against rationalizing away the miracles. He says, "Elisha did in fact restore the life of the child." As to the story of the axe head, Honeycutt says, "Elisha possessed such stupendous power that he caused a lost axe head to float." Let's be careful to give Dr. Honeycutt what he is due.

Whatever the problems we may have with Honeycutt's terminology, we must admit that he believes what the Bible says is true! And since that

is the bottom line, please don't start "stamping out" Dr. Honeycutt yet!

David W. Spencer
Long Beach

Understand more

Editor:

Rev. Gann's "Guest Opinion" (May 23) proposes to speak for the vast majority of pastors. Let us hope they understand more of the facts than is evidenced by that summary.

Honeycutt, Dilday, and Parks do not object to Stanley simply because he is identified with the independent conservatives. Stanley is using the presidency to manipulate appointments in such a way that only one view will be represented. If the trend continues, the best persons in our seminaries and agencies will be forced out in the coming purge.

Gann demands that Honeycutt, Dilday, and Parks be silent. He says that it makes a "big difference" because they are on salary. Why? If a faction in Gann's church was trying to unseat him, would he say "I must be silent and cannot defend myself because I am on salary to the church"? Of course not.

Gann owes the three an apology on another count. From firsthand knowledge I can state that it is untrue that they have attempted to infringe on the autonomy of Stanley's church. They support the right of Stanley's church to give nothing to the Cooperative Program if it so wishes. They do question the wisdom of electing leaders who are not exemplary.

It is a little unsettling that the editorial approves of pastors having more power than our supposed democratic process gives them. In repeating the funding threat, pastors are equated with churches in controlling the flow of CP dollars.

The claim that Rogers, Smith, Draper, Criswell, and other independent pastors work directly with "the people who give the money . . ." is not true. The vast majority of CP funds come from persons who have no contact with them.

Bill Hodge
Ocean Springs



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ON TARGET



A command . . . a promise. . . a plan

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20, TEV).

Jesus' final words on earth were a command to his followers to spread his gospel throughout the world. Down through the centuries, Jesus' followers have sought to obey his command, claiming the promise of his presence.

Seeking to follow Jesus' centuries-old command, Southern Baptists adopted a daring new plan in 1977. That plan was called "Bold Mission Thrust." Its purpose: **to give every person on earth the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ by the year 2000.**

This bold new plan called for bold new emphases, actions, and programs as Southern Baptists reached out to a lost world with renewed fervor and dedication.

Mississippi Baptists joined other Southern Baptists in embracing the goals of Bold Mission Thrust and pressing toward the goal of reaching the world for Christ by 2000.

Today, Mississippi Baptists are "on target" in the continuing quest of Bold Mission Thrust goals. Listed in this folder are Bold Mission Thrust emphases and events in which Mississippi Baptists may participate in the months ahead.

As we consider these events, let us remember **THE COMMAND . . . THE PROMISE . . . and THE PLAN — BOLD MISSION THRUST.**

Mississippi Baptists — "On Target"

SUPER SEPTEMBER

September 1 — Day of Prayer for the Sunday School

September 8 — State Mission Emphasis

September 15 — High Attendance Day and Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery

September 22 — Enrollment Sunday

September 29 — Celebration Sunday

October 6 — Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90

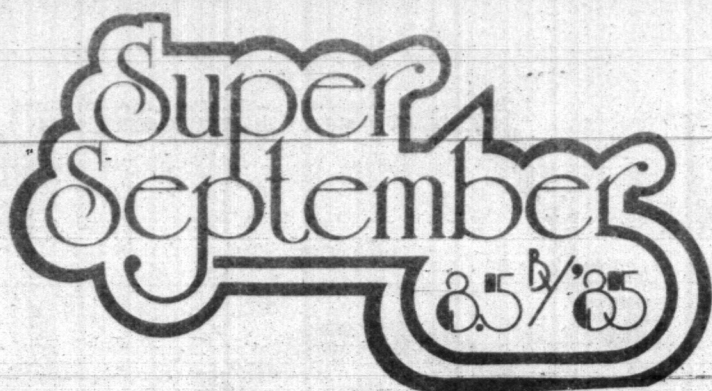
October-November — Planned Growth In Giving

January 12, 1986 — Witness Commitment Day

Beginning January 19 — Training Sunday School Workers In Evangelism

April 6-13 — Good News America Revivals — South Mississippi

April 20-27 — Good News America Revivals — North Mississippi



To have 8.5 million people enrolled in Sunday School by September 30, 1985 — that is the goal of a three-year emphasis "8.5 by '85." To reach that goal calls for a 500,000 net gain in SBC Sunday School enrollment, and a 20,000 net gain in enrollment in Mississippi during 1984-85.

Super September is the climactic month of 8.5 by '85. There are special activities connected with each Sunday during September.

September 1 — DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

In youth and adult departments, the department director conducts a special prayer time of commitment to reaching prospects during September. Pray for the church's involvement in Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery and High Attendance Day on September 15.

September 8 — STATE MISSION SEASON OF PRAYER.

Emphasis is given to missions within the state which Mississippi Baptists support.

September 1-15 — EMPHASIZE CONTACTS BY INVOLVING EVERY SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBER IN CONTACTING PROSPECTS AND ABSENTEES.

Use a "Call Five" technique in which every member calls five persons each week to encourage them to attend and enroll in Sunday School.

September 15 — OBSERVE HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY AND CONDUCT SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION/PROSPECT DISCOVERY.

Each church sets its own high attendance goal.

SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION/PROSPECT DISCOVERY is intended to mobilize church members to survey homes in their communities, and in so doing to:

- distribute a New Testament or Scripture portion to every residence. (More than five million Good News America New Testaments have been printed to sup-

port this nationwide distribution effort. The "Book of Romans" and the "Gospel of John" are also available.)

- share a brief, verbal witness;
- discover prospects who need our witness;
- initiate activities to cultivate prospects;
- invite unchurched persons and inactive church members to become part of your church fellowship.

September 22 — CONDUCT ENROLLMENT SUNDAY.

Conduct follow-up visits and contacts seeking to enroll prospects in Sunday School.

September 29 — CONDUCT CELEBRATION SUNDAY.

Celebrate the results of 8.5 by '85 in a day of rejoicing for those persons who became Sunday School members after October, 1982. Consider having an old-fashioned dinner on the grounds with a giant ice cream sundae prepared so all the people may share in super Sundae.

Celebration Sunday is also "report" day. After church the Sunday School director will call the associational office, or the associational Sunday School director, to report Sunday School enrollment and attendance for September 29. The associational Sunday School director will then call the state Sunday School director to report associational totals. The state director will report state totals to the Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

PREPARATION FOR "GOOD NEWS AMERICA"

Super September is the first major step in preparation for "Good News America," simultaneous revivals to take place in Mississippi during April, 1986.

Along with Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery, further aid to Good News America revivals will be provided in October-December curriculum, featuring a study of discovering and cultivating prospects.

January-February, 1986, Sunday School materials will emphasize personal witnessing, as Sunday School workers are encouraged to participate in Witness Training sponsored by Church Training. This six-week study is aimed at training one million Sunday School workers over a five-year period to share their Christian faith.

Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90

October 6, 1985

In 1977, we Southern Baptists set for ourselves a daring goal — to give every person in the world the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel by the year 2000. That daring plan was called Bold Mission Thrust.

The three emphases of the Thrust are **Reach People; Develop Believers; Strengthen Missions.** Churches, associations, and state conventions set goals within these emphases, following the goals adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Reach People and Develop Believers emphasis areas were launched in the 1982-85 period. Now, Strengthen Missions will be the primary focus of launch efforts in 1985-86.

October 6 is the suggested date for Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90 in which goals and plans for the next five years will be set in churches across Mississippi.

The purpose of Bold Mission Launch Day is to call attention to the fact that Southern Baptists who believe in Jesus Christ are taking another step toward presenting Christ to every person on the earth by the year 2000.

Activities For The Day Could Include:

• Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast

*Using a breakfast program, the men can be enlightened and challenged to the mission possibilities for them and their church.

• Sunday School

*Members share their dreams and goals for Bible study and outreach.

*Classes and departments set enrollment goals for the coming year.

*Interpret the nation-wide "Challenge 10/90" emphasis with its goal of 10 million enrolled in Sunday School by 1990.

*Interpret the state-wide goal of reaching 425,000 enrolled in Mississippi Sunday Schools by 1990.

*Share goals and plans for your church's involvement in "Challenge 10/90" in each adult and youth department.

• Morning Worship Service

Use mission hymns.

*Explain the church's Bold Mission goals in reaching people, developing believers and strengthening missions.

*Have special prayer for Bold Mission Thrust led by WMU director.

*Present a feature about Planned Growth in Giving. Planned Growth in Giving will be the primary focus of the Strengthen Missions area. This plan emphasizes a renewed personal commitment and the development of a fifteen-year plan for improving personal stewardship.

*Simultaneous revivals built around the theme "Good News America, God Loves you" will be conducted in many Mississippi churches in April, 1986. A promotional feature about the revivals could be a part of Launch Day.

• Church Training

*The October 6 session is the first installment in a year-long emphasis on Lordship and Servanthood in the dated periodicals for children, youth, and adults. This study emphasizes the on-going emphasis of developing believers.

• Evening Worship Service

*Consider using the twenty-minute musical, "2000 A.D.," written by Forbis/Hayes and produced by Van Ness Press. This musical is designed to aid a church in its launch effort by calling attention to the fact that the people of God are on mission and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

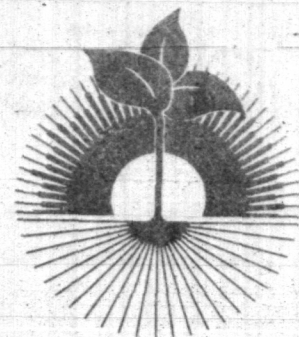
• Bold Mission Launch Day Celebration And Fellowship

*Consider either an after-service fellowship at night or a noon meal. Decorate the room with missions posters; dolls of other countries, or other curios; flags of the states or countries. Review the events of the day and make a commitment to Bold Mission Thrust.

October 6: Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90, an important day in Mississippi churches. Join thousands of fellow Baptists in making Bold Mission Thrust 1985-90 an experience in faith and work that will glorify the Father through Jesus Christ.

Planned Growth in Giving

October-November, 1985



WHAT IS IT?

"... writing a fresh page in the history of commitment to giving." ... "Having a part in changing the world" ... "the most challenging stewardship program ever undertaken by Southern Baptists" ... "a call for new and life-changing commitments" ... "sharing a grand vision."

Planned Growth in Giving is all this — and more! David Michel, consultant in the Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and director of Planned Growth in Giving in Mississippi, says, "The purpose of Planned Growth in Giving is two-fold: (1) personal spiritual growth, and (2) underwriting the Bold Mission Thrust goals."

Southern Baptists have adopted the Bold Mission Thrust goal of making certain every person in the world has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel by the year 2000. Reaching such a goal will require increased commitment and cooperation on the part of each Southern Baptist.

A PLAN FOR REACHING THE WORLD

Planned Growth in Giving is a 15-year plan to challenge Southern Baptists to increase their level of giving to their local church and through their church to mission causes throughout the world.

- Each individual or family is asked to increase personal giving to their church each year, 1985-2000, by some percentage of their income.

For some Baptists, Planned Growth in Giving will be a challenge to simply begin some form of systematic giving through their church. Perhaps they have never contributed on a regular basis. Planned Growth in Giving invites them to begin designating some percentage of their income to their local church, and then for the next 15 years, increase that percentage annually, perhaps by one, one-half, one-third or some other portion of a percentage.

For those who already give regularly, Planned Growth in Giving is a challenge to increase their level of stewardship as they support the ministries of their church. Starting with what they are now giving, regular givers are asked to increase each year the percentage of their income they give to their church.

For the many church members who already tithe, Planned Growth in Giving is an invitation to follow the model of Jesus and sacrificially increase their level of giving during the next 15 years.

- Each Southern Baptist Convention church is asked to adopt a plan to increase by some percentage each year, 1985-2000, the amount given through the Cooperative Program. The challenge is to increase the total percentage channeled through the Cooperative Program by 7.5% at the end of fifteen years.
- The Mississippi Baptist Convention is committed to continuing the one-half percent increase to Southern Baptist Convention ministries between 1985-2000, bringing the total percentage given to 43%.
- The Southern Baptist Convention has adopted a goal of allocating 75% of the SBC Cooperative Program funds to home and foreign missions before 2000.

THE CHURCH EVENT . . .

THE CHALLENGE OF PLANNED GROWTH IN GIVING

- The Church Event is a five-Sunday emphasis which launches a church into history-making Planned Growth in Giving.
- The Church Event is a five-Sunday emphasis designed to help members grow through Bible study and commitment.
- The Planned Growth in Giving Church Event will challenge members to increase their giving by some percentage amount each year for fifteen years.
- Each church chooses its date in 1985 to conduct the Church Event. Suggested date is during the fall quarter.

James F. Yates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, is chairman of the State Task Force on Planned Growth in Giving. He says, "I am excited about the possibilities of Planned Growth in Giving and what it can mean to our churches. It is an opportune time for church members to grow spiritually and to embark on a bold 15-year growth plan in giving."

Witness Commitment Day, January 12, 1986

On January 12, 1986, Witness Commitment Day will be observed in churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. On that day, Baptists will have an opportunity to commit themselves to share their Christian faith with lost persons.

Youth and adult Sunday School teachers are urged to announce Witness Commitment Day in their classes several Sundays prior to January 12.

Pastors are requested to emphasize "Equipping the Saints to Witness" and to

encourage people to sign up for Witness Training as part of the Witness Commitment Day program. Sunday School teachers are urged to set the pace in this commitment.

Witness training for those who respond to Witness Commitment Day will begin the following Sunday, January 19, using the Equipping Center Module, "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism."

"Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism"

Beginning January 19

Sunday, January 19, 1986, has been set as the launch date for a massive effort to train one million Sunday School workers, nation-wide, to witness.

A Church Training equipping center module entitled "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism," is the tool for training. The six-week study, suggested to take place through Church Training, may be conducted quarterly or annually. Or, a church may choose to have a study for youth and another for adults, meeting simultaneously.

This Bold Mission Thrust witness training project, designed to win the lost to Christ, is a joint effort of Sunday School, Church Training, and evangelism.

While the study is aimed at preparing Sunday School teachers to witness, all youth and adults are encouraged to participate in the training sessions.

The goal for Mississippi is 9,000 persons per year trained in evangelism for five years.

Participants in Witness Training will learn:

- to develop their personal testimonies
- to share their conversion experiences in a home, in the classroom, or in their community
- to discover prospects.



Contained in the module, "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism," is everything needed for the six-week training: pupil booklets, teaching guide, filmstrip, posters, work sheet, cassette tape, unit outline, and other items.

The module will be available January 1, 1986, and should be ordered in November on the literature order form from the Baptist Sunday School Board. Also, the module will be available from the Baptist Book Store. Many directors of associational missions have a copy of the module which churches may borrow.

Survival Kit for New Christians

QUESTION: After a person becomes a Christian, what can help him get started in his new life in Christ?

ANSWER: The Survival Kit for New Christians.

This kit is age-graded for children, youth and adults. It can be used in a group setting or it can be studied individually, with an encourager meeting weekly with the new Christian. The Survival Kit is available from the Baptist Book Store.

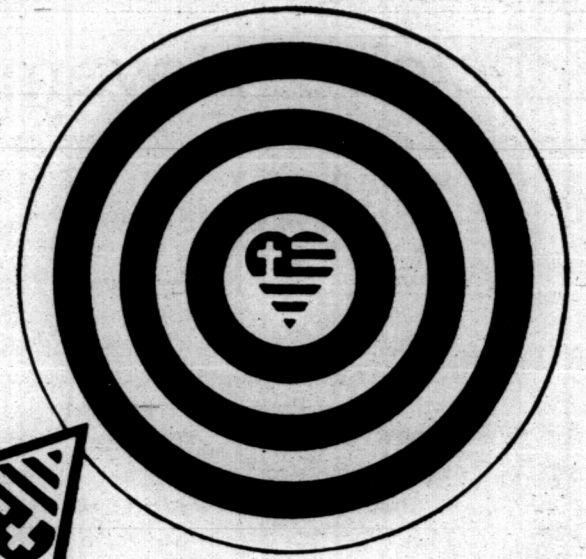
Witness Training for 9,000 Mississippi Baptists per year for five years, one million trained nation-wide; Good News America revivals; "Survival Kit for New Christians" follow-up — all combine to keep Mississippi Baptists on target in moving toward Bold Mission Thrust goals.

"Good News America, God loves you"

Simultaneous revivals

April 6-13, 1986 — South Mississippi

April 20-27, 1986 — North Mississippi



DEFINITION: A simultaneous revival is an evangelistic effort in which churches within a given area enter into a revival meeting beginning on the same day and closing on the same day.

Theme: "Good News America, God Loves You" is the theme for the Southern Baptist Convention 1986 simultaneous revivals.

Southern Baptists are cooperatively delivering one message to America: **the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that God really does love you (America as well as the entire world).**

Why Simultaneous Revivals?

America has experienced earth-shaking awakenings in 1734, 1800, 1858, and 1906. Could this be the time for another great awakening? If Southern Baptists join their hearts in prayer, give their money, believe God for a supernatural work, and aggressively share Christ with their neighbors, God may choose to bless us immeasurably.

In Mississippi our goal is to have 75 associations and 1,700 churches participating in GOOD NEWS AMERICA revivals. As Mississippi Baptist churches participate in this national simultaneous revival effort, we will be joining 50 states, 37 conventions, and two fellowships. This means that every state will be participating. The national goal is for 80 percent of Southern Baptist churches to participate. Churches are encouraged to conduct revivals which are at least eight days in length.

Preparation For Good News America

- **1985** — The year 1985 has been designated by the Home Mission Board as the year for prayer and spiritual preparation for Good News America.
- **September 15 — Scripture Distribution/Prospect Discovery Sunday**

Mississippi Baptists will seek to:

- *Distribute a New Testament or Scripture portion to every residence
- *Share a brief, verbal witness
- *Discover prospects who need our witness
- *Initiate activities to cultivate prospects
- *Invite unchurched persons and inactive church members to become part of our church fellowship

• October 6 — Bold Mission Launch Day — 1985-90

Mississippi Baptists will focus on 1985-90 Bold Mission Thrust goals in various activities of the church. A promotional feature about "Good News America" revival is suggested for the morning worship.

• January 12 — Witness Commitment Day

Baptists commit themselves to share their Christian faith with lost persons.

• January 19 — Begin "Training Sunday School Workers In Evangelism."

A six-week study conducted during Church Training to train Sunday School workers and other adults and youth in witnessing to lost persons. Mississippi's goal is 9,000 persons per year for five years trained to witness of their faith. The nationwide goal is one million persons trained to witness.

• March (4 to 6 weeks prior to the revival date) — Associational "Good News America" Rally.

The Rally is an inspirational program to launch the simultaneous revivals in the association.

• May-June — After The Revival — Begin Intensive Follow-Up Plans.

Encourage every new convert and every new member to follow-through with baptism and become involved in Sunday School, Church Training, new member orientation, worship services and the total life of the church. Consider THE SURVIVAL KIT FOR NEW CHRISTIANS as a guide for new converts. or, encourage each new Christian to enroll in the Pastor's New Members Class.

It is hoped that through this gigantic evangelistic effort, Southern Baptists will discover millions of lost people they can cultivate. It is also hoped that 560,000 people will come into the kingdom of God through "Good News America."

"Good News America, God Loves You" can be the great harvesting of our time and age. If you are ready for a turning point and believe 'Good News America, God Loves you' can be that time, **begin now.** Commit yourself to pray for revival in Mississippi and throughout America. Begin now to share the Good News that God loves every person," said Guy Henderson, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



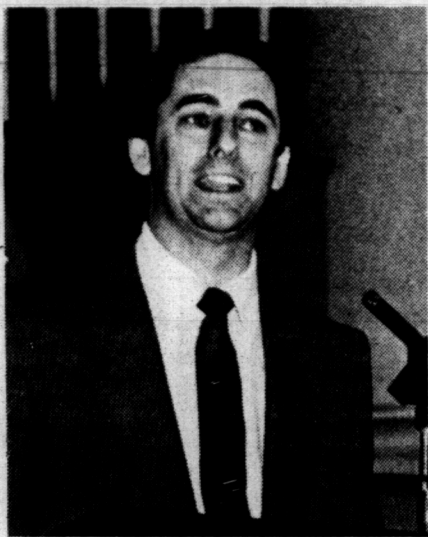
GOOD NEWS AMERICA,
GOD LOVES YOU.



GOOD NEWS AMERICA,
GOD LOVES YOU.



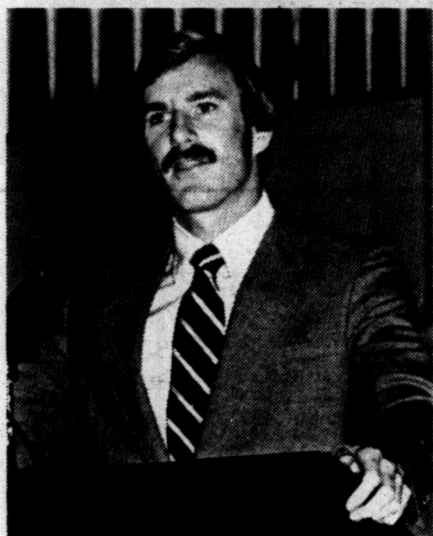
Smith



Williamson



Bowman



Stewart



Tynes



Green

Students lead chapel services

Seven Mississippians took part in a series of six student-led chapel services at New Orleans Seminary recently. Senior students were elected by the student body to direct the congregational singing, present special music, and deliver the messages. Michael Smith, top left, New Albany, presented special music. Bobby Williamson, top center, pastor, Mount Vernon Church, Liberty (Lexington native), delivered a message; Donna Bowman, top right, River Ridge, La., graduate of USM, presented special music.

Clark Stewart, bottom left, Picayune, delivered a message; Becky Tynes, bottom center, Tylertown, led congregational singing; John Green, from New Hebron, and his wife, the former Beth Milner of Jackson, bottom right, presented special music. Green is music director at Gentilly Church, New Orleans.

Heidelberg marks centennial

Heidelberg Church will observe its Centennial, Aug. 4. This is to be a day of celebration when one hundred years of history of this church will be reviewed.

Tentative plans are for the morning service to begin at 10:30 a.m., with lunch being served at noon, and other activities beginning at 1:30 that afternoon.

"If anyone has memorabilia of the church that can be used, please share it," requests Jamie W. Tynes, pastor.

Rachel Milner returns to Oklahoma as MSC worker

Mrs. Rachel Milner of Jackson will be leaving shortly for Tulsa, Okla., where she will be employed for a year by the Home Mission Board in its Mission Service Corps. She will work at the Baptist Women's Shelter in Tulsa, and expects to be on the field by Aug. 1.

Mrs. Milner previously worked in Tulsa, at the Baptist Women's Shelter, from 1981 to 1982, after volunteering in 1980. Since then, she has returned for shorter periods of time, in 1983 and again in 1984.

The shelter provides for women who have been victims of domestic violence. Its staff includes the director, Sharon Utley; associate director; and two Mission Service Corps workers (both Baptist women), in addition to Mrs. Milner. The shelter is sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board and the Tulsa Baptist Association. At present, around thirty women and children are living there.

Mrs. Milner is the widow of Herman A. Milner, who was pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson, from 1945 until his death in 1978. Her three children are Herman A. Milner, Jr., minister of music at Concord Church, Anderson, S.C.; Clara, pianist and music secretary at Van Winkle Church, Jackson, and wife of Bill Gore, lawyer in the attorney general's office; and Beth, student at New Orleans Seminary and wife of John Green, music minister at Gentilly Church, New Orleans, and also a seminary student.

The shelter helps the women who come to live there to find jobs. Also Bible classes are taught, and busses are provided to take the women to church.

Mrs. Milner said that she will work in the office, help to organize and manage the kitchen staff, and help

teach Bible classes. Though the director does the counseling, others on the staff have many opportunities to offer advice, Mrs. Milner said.

Since the shelter opened, she added, there have been at least 200 professions of faith. "Women in a crisis situation learn to depend on the Lord. Their faith increases."

"Women find a hiding place at the shelter, as they flee from all kinds of mistreatment, and look for a way to start a new life."

She particularly remembered one woman who, in

Mrs. Milner shock, could not speak for three days. She had been locked in a trailer for six weeks, the last week at gunpoint. "Now, as a result of her stay at the Baptist Women's Shelter, both she and her husband are Christians."

Mrs. Milner said, "I would like to encourage retirees to volunteer for work through the Mission Service Corps, for one to two years. The Home Mission Board—and the Foreign Mission Board—need many more volunteers."

Antioch gift

Antioch Church, Clarke County, gave \$402 to home missions through the 1985 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The check was received too late for the amount to be noted with other churches in the recent list in the Baptist Record.

(Also Antioch gave \$755.25 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.)

SCRAPBOOK

Windows

Facing my window over the sink
I see the sky, the trees — and think
how happy am I to have this view
of heaven and earth — and another window, too.
Where sometimes I see a little blonde boy
And when he laughs it's just pure joy!

My "private" window where I can pray
for others who live so far away
and know that God my needs can meet.
He's nearer than breathing — or hands and feet.

—Lillian Peters Whitten
Macon

Bridges

Some people build walls
so quickly.
Christians must ask
God for the right
tools to
break them down
and how to design
bridges to cross

the chasms of selfishness,
apathy, loneliness,
insecurity, restlessness,
despair, and misunderstandings
between us and
others.

—Kaye George

Certainty

If I should stop believing
That you're watching us up there,
If I should not remember
That you constantly do care,
If I'd forget the blessings
You've bestowed on us each day
Then how could I continue
Down life's dark, mysterious way?

But I am sure you love us,
And I'm positive you see
Every problem that besets us,
And you know each agony!
And I'm sure you'll send the blessing
And the wisdom and the power
That are suitable and needed
For the trials of each hour!

—Elizabeth Teal
Kosciusko

It is better to understand a little
than to misunderstand a lot.
Wisdom is divided into two parts:
having a great deal to say — and not
saying it.

Children's top 20 heart swellers

1. You're special to me.
2. I like the way you did that.
3. My, that looks great!
4. What do you think?
5. I'm glad you came today.
6. Thank you for helping.
7. I'm proud of you.
8. Jesus loves you.
9. I enjoy talking with you.
10. You can do that so well!
11. I'll look forward to seeing you tomorrow.
12. You make me feel special.
13. You remembered!
14. Did you do that all by yourself?
15. You deserve a hug for that!
16. I love you very much.
17. I love you very much.
18. I love you very much.
19. I love you very much.
20. I love you very much.

—Hope Starnes

Prejudice is a great time-saver. It enables one to form opinions without bothering to get the facts.

Your promises to God should be as binding as those you make at the bank.

Even peace may be purchased at too high a price.

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High court strikes down Connecticut Sabbath law

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Connecticut law guaranteeing employees of private companies an absolute right to take a day off from work to observe their chosen Sabbath violates the Constitution, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 26.

In an 8-1 decision announced by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the high court held the 1976 law ran counter to the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion because it had the primary effect of

advancing religion.

Only Justice William H. Rehnquist dissented.

The one-sided decision brought to an end a legal battle involving a Connecticut worker who died three years ago, but whose case was pursued by the administrator of his estate.

Donald E. Thornton, who worked for Caldor Inc., a chain of New England department stores, informed the company in 1979 he wished to take Sundays off to observe his Sab-

By Stan Haste

bath. Thornton was a Presbyterian.

According to lower court records, Thornton took the action after being advised by an attorney he had a legal right to demand Sundays off under provisions of a 1977 Connecticut law that read in part, "No person who states that a particular day of the week is observed as his Sabbath may be required by his employer to work on such day."

Burger pointed to a 1971 Supreme Court ruling that the establishment

clause demands a law must have a secular purpose, must have the primary effect of neither advancing nor inhibiting religion, and must not excessively entangle church and state.

Because the Connecticut law "arms Sabbath observers with an absolute and unqualified right not to work on whatever day they designate as their Sabbath," Burger wrote, it runs afoul of the primary effect test.

Haste writes for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.

Little Bahala pastor named "Outstanding"

NEW ORLEANS — George Robin Jumper, pastor of Little Bahala Baptist Church in Wesson, Miss., was one

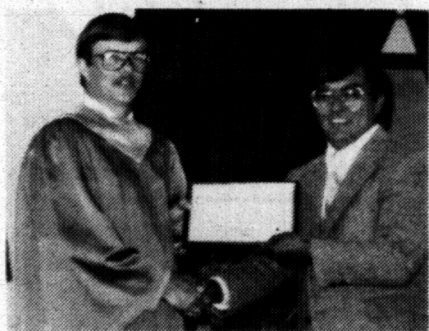


of five persons named an outstanding student during the 1985 awards assembly at New Orleans Seminary. He was named outstanding student in the master of divinity degree program.

The Etta, Miss. native holds the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jumper of Etta. He is married to the former Terry McDonald of Lumberton, Miss.

Plaques listing the award and a selection of books were presented to each recipient.

Names in the News



Shoreline Park Church, Bay St. Louis, recently licensed Clifton Treadway (left) to the gospel ministry. Shown presenting the certificate of license is Peter Kendrick, pastor of Shoreline Park.

JACKSON, Miss. (EP) — Harold Spann has been named president of Wesley Biblical Seminary here. Spann came from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., where he was assistant to the president for institutional advancement.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — M. B. Howard, a 62-year-old retired postal employee from Covington, Tenn., has been named the first executive director of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

He will work without salary as a Missions Service Corps volunteer. The Brotherhood Commission will provide him with office space, secretarial assistance, and travel expenses.

The Fellowship of Baptist Men, a part of the Brotherhood Commission, encourages Baptist men to organize on the basis of vocation, interest, and/or skills and to meet to share ways of using their skills in witnessing their Christian faith.

Mississippians among grads of Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Seminary set two records when President Russell H. Dilday awarded degrees to 162 students, including three Mississippians, during summer commencement July 12.



Robertson

Also, 24 grad-

uates received doctorates, the largest number of advanced degrees ever awarded in a summer commencement. This was the second largest doctoral class ever, consisting of three women and 21 men. Four came from foreign countries.

Mississippi graduates were Garland Larue Robertson, Collins, doctor of philosophy; Virginia Curtes Bennett, Jackson, master of music; and Oliver Wayne Fancher, Columbus, master of music.

Brush arbor musical kicks off centennial of First Church, Union

First, Union celebrated its centennial anniversary, in a series of events. On June 30, the sanctuary choir, under direction of the minister of music, Allen Hill, presented a "Brush Arbor Meeting" musical in the mini-park of downtown Union.

On July 6, the church had a historical pageant in which the church history was dramatized. On July 7, the church had a homecoming service in which many former members re-

turned for the occasion, and dinner was served on the ground. Jack Gunn, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, presented the church with a 100th anniversary certificate. The church also set up a historical display. A history was written.

On July 7, the church began a centennial revival which went through July 12. Terrell D. Suggs is pastor.

Book Reviews

BEFORE YOU CALL I WILL ANSWER by David A. Redding (Fleming H. Revell, 155 pp., \$8.95) In this provocative book, the author explores the nature of prayer and its role in the life of the believer. He denounces pomposity and hypocrisy in the prayer life, and calls for a change of heart and mind that will display reverence, adoration, enjoyment, thankfulness, and truer devotion to God. Each chapter is preceded with a prayer written by Redding, who is pastor of the Liberty Presbyterian Church, Delaware, Ohio. — AWM

THE SECOND COMING: WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS?, by David Allan Hubbard; Intervarsity Press, c1984; 121 pages; paperback, \$2.95.

Here are eleven sermon-like chapters on the second coming of Jesus Christ written from the historical, premillennial position. Hubbard believes that preoccupation with charts, maps and elaborate schemes concerning the how and when of the second coming miss the most important and most compelling questions concerning the end of the age and the coming of Christ. Hubbard is interested in how the components of Christ's second coming tie

in with the other basic affirmations of Christian faith, like creation, the fall of human kind, the incarnation, the work of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the church.

For Hubbard eschatology (the study of last things) is much more than the final chapter in God's redemptive program. "It is the North Star from which theological study gains its bearings, the giant floodlight by which God brightens the whole landscape of human life and history, the clearest picture we possess of what God really wants, what our place is in His plan, and what power He has to make all creation serve His glory." (Page 10)

The eleven chapters of the book are: The Certainty of the Second Coming; The Purpose of Christ's Coming; The Great Tribulation; Heaven and Hell; The Glorious Coming; The First Resurrection; The Future of Israel; The Triumphant Millennium; The Second Resurrection; The New Heaven and Earth; and the Eternal Kingdom.

Hubbard believes that there is a future for the nation of Israel and the plan of God, that the church will go through the tribulation and there will be a literal earthly millennium. — Reviewed by Alan Day.

Missionary News



Danny and Elizabeth Panter, missionaries to Togo, will speak at Dry Creek Church, Rankin County, on Sunday, July 28, at the 11 a.m. service. The Panter were recently reappointed. He will be a teacher in extension and she will be a church and home worker. Previously they served in Togo for seven years before they resigned in 1983. Since then he has been pastor and she has been music director at Roseland Baptist Church, Roseland, La. He was born in Pascagoula and she was born in Jackson.

Eddie and Marilyn Graves, missionaries to Chile, announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Lee, on July 13. Mrs. Graves is the former Marilyn Lewis of Starkville. Also welcoming the new baby are Adam, 6, and Lucy, 3. Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Lewis of Starkville are the maternal grandparents and Mrs. Avie Lee Graves of Ripley is the paternal grandmother. The Graveses may be addressed at Casilla 1417, Concepcion, Chile.

Curtis and Deanie Ferrell, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 787 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206). He was born in Montgomery, Ala., and grew up in Argentina, where his parents were missionaries. She is the former Deanie Bolls of Jackson.

Richard and Joan Fox, missionaries to India, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 1045 Flynt Dr., Apt. Q-7, Jackson, Miss. 39208).

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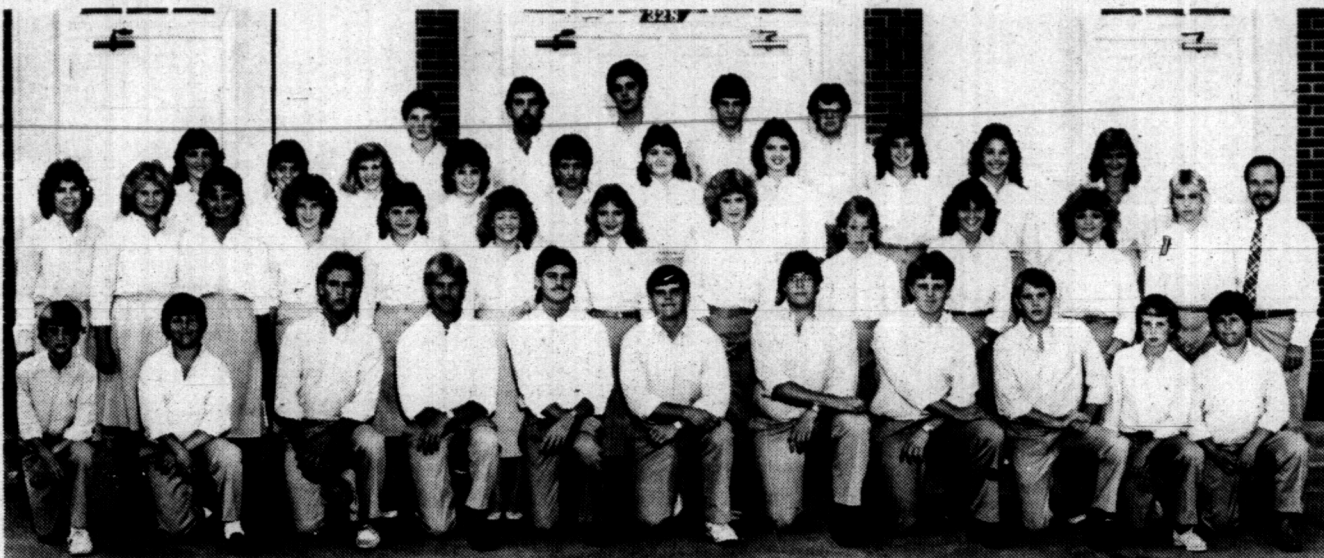
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BUSINESS MANAGER WANTED for Alaska Baptist Convention. BA in business Administration and CPA preferred. Must be devout churchman. Contact John Allen, Alaska Baptist Convention, 1750 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99516, (907) 344-9627.

EAST FORK Baptist Church (Amite County) 175th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION in September 1985. Make plans to join us. More details of three day events later.

FOR SALE: Twenty-two 12 ft. PADDED PEWS. New Hope Baptist Church, Amory. Call Wade Cook (601) 256-4752; or 256-8778.



The Chapel Choir from West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently returned from a choir tour/retreat that took them to Panama City, Fla. The choir, 37 young people, presented the musical, "Come to Know Him" at DeKalb Church, DeKalb, and

First Church, Sumrall. Bible Study was led daily by Bill Hardin, pastor of Springville Church, Pontotoc Association. James Francis is minister of music and youth at West Heights Church and James Spencer is pastor.

Just for the Record



"His Way Mine" was the theme of the Acteens and GA Coronation Service at Highland Church, Crystal Springs. Acteens recognized were Sharon Day, Queen with Scepter; Chelly Lenard, Queen; Kim Courtney, Queen; Melissa Myers, Queen; and Becky Courtney, Queen. GAs receiving awards were Jennifer Dell, Dana Swinehart, Stephanie Day, Renee Dear, Lori Dell, Jessica Moore, Dana Gordon, and Wendy Warren.



Twelve youth and chaperones from Oktibbeha Association participated in the Acteens Activators program in Beaumont, Texas, May 31-June 9. The group led in VBS, Backyard Bible Clubs, and revival services with a inner-city mission in Beaumont. Pictured are, Brett Prather, Jennifer Mincy, Becky O'Nan, Elliot Mincy, Lori Barksdale, Randall Jackson, Chan Monroe, Frances Runnels, chaperon, Dana Ming, Tempe O'Nan, chaperon, and Becky DeWett, chaperone. Not pictured, Margaret Gammett.



Easthaven, Brookhaven, recently held its GA recognition service. Girls participating were, front row (l to r) Heather Morris, Dara Callender, Emily Reid, Laurie Walker, Erin Edwards, Stacey Walker, and Lacey Walker. Back row (l to r) Martha

Smith, Deanna Joyce, Melanie Callender, Layla Edwards, Pam Eubanks, Charlotte Watts, Shanna Williamson, Stephanie Price, Julie Hoggatt, Cindy Eubanks, and Michelle Smith.

Center Hill Church, Hamilton (Monroe Association) has voted for a \$140,000 total renovation of its sanctuary. The work is to begin the first of September and will be completed before Christmas. During the renovation time, the church will hold worship services in its Family Life Building, which was recently constructed, with a full size gym and educational space for \$147,000. This building was paid off in a period of 2½ years. The renovation committee will be serving as the general contractors for the renovation of the sanctuary. The members of this committee are, Dale Pennington, Rusty McCartney, Benny Brock, Lonnie Oliver, Judy Cockerham, Minnie Nell Baggett, Monica Blanton, and Georgia Cockerham, with the pastor Don Nerren serving as the chairman.

Shiloh (Marion): Vacation Bible School; July 8-12; 105 enrolled; average attendance, 97; Eddie King, pastor.

Homecomings

Antioch (Lowndes): homecoming; July 28; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11; lunch at the church; Jimmy Harrington, pastor; Mac Pace, minister of music and youth.

Providence (Attala): third annual homecoming, July 28; lunch served, noon, followed by singing, featuring special guests; Walter Hines, pastor, will preach at 11 a.m. worship hour; all tithes and offerings will go into the building fund.

County Line, Dossville: homecoming, July 28; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch in Fellowship Hall; Billy McKay, First, Belzoni, was ordained to the ministry at County Line, speaker.

Zion Hill, Liberty: 174th anniversary, homecoming, Aug. 4; morning service, 11 a.m.; Odus Jackson, pastor, preaching; Ivy Butler, music; covered dish lunch, noon, on the church grounds; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m., quartet singing, Ivy Butler will present music from his recording.

Sign in front of a church: "Try One of Our Sundays."

Revival Dates

First, Sardis, (Panola): July 28-Aug. 2; Alan Balliet, pastor, Springfield, Morton, evangelist; music under direction of Joe Meurier, minister of music, FBC, Sardis; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at noon and 7:30 p.m.; Bruce G. Jolly, pastor.

Calhoun, Hot Coffee (Covington): July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday services 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; David Hall, pastor, First, West Point, evangelist; Tom Mercier, music minister, Prentiss, music evangelist; Bob Rogers, pastor.

Chapel Hill (Hinds): July 28-Aug. 2; Tom Rayburn, pastor, First, Florence, evangelist; Bobby Stubbs, music evangelist; services Sunday 11 a.m. with lunch served and an afternoon service (no night service), Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; S. W. Valentine, pastor.

First, Crystal Springs: July 28-31; Kermit McGregor, Public Relations Director, Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, guest preacher; Franklin Denham, Meridian, guest musician; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon luncheon and services; evening services, 7:30; Ice Cream Fellowship following Sunday night service; Joel E. Haire, pastor; James Beasley, minister of music.

Arkadelphia, Bailey: July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; covered dish lunch; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Pete Evans, pastor, State Blvd., Meridian, preaching; Tommy Kelly, pastor, Blackwater, Daleville, music; John Vaughn, pastor.

Providence (Attala): July 29-Aug. 2; Larry Harvey, evangelist; Mrs. Sarah Shumaker, pianist; Walter Hines, pastor, music; services, 7:30 p.m. each night.

Faith, Ovett: July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m., and 2 p.m.; dinner on the ground; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Maxie, evangelist; Ronnie Cunningham, music; Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.

Wheeler (Prentiss): July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday dinner at church; Mon.-Fri. 10:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Bert Harper, pastor, West Jackson, Tupelo, evangelist; Jerry Crawford, minister of music; Roy R. Marshall, pastor.

Mt. Olive, Smithdale: homecoming and revival; July 28-Aug. 2; Ben Carlisle, preaching; Benny Still, music leader; Jimmy Holston, pastor; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri. at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Bolton, Bolton: July 28-Aug. 2; Dan Watts, pastor, Raymond Road Church, Jackson, evangelist; Jerry Williamson, music evangelist; services Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Wayne Burkes, pastor.

Short Creek (Yazoo): July 28-31; homecoming, Sunday, July 28, dinner at the church; Robert Ragland, Calvary, Belzoni, evangelist; Mrs. Lena Arrington, music; Mrs. Kathleen Bloom, pianist; Mon.-Wed. 7:30 p.m.; R. B. McNeer, pastor.

Cato (Rankin): July 28-Aug. 2; Arnold Davis, Louisville, evangelist; services Sunday 7 p.m. (lunch will be served in fellowship hall after morning worship); Monday through Friday 7:30 p.m.; Len Sullivan, pastor.

Spring Hill (Marshall): July 29-Aug. 2; services each evening at 7:30; Don Stanfield, Harromtown, evangelist; Billy Mitchell, pastor.

Shady Grove (Copiah): July 28 to 31; Tim Rayborn, evangelist; Rodger Banes and Johnny Johns, music leaders; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; weekday services at 6 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Danny Watkins, pastor.

New Prospect, Iuka: July 28-Aug. 2; noonday services; evening services, 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Swimmer, evangelist; Eugene Walden, pastor.

Hillsboro (Scott): July 28-31; Sunday, regular services; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; J. C. Renfro, director of missions, Rankin Association; Jim Armstrong, First, Nettleton, music; Ricky Gray, pastor.

Mount Moriah, (Marshall): July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Millard L. Swinney, Olive Branch, interim pastor at New Hope, Lafayette.

Antioch (Rankin): July 28-Aug. 2; homecoming, July 28, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; Sunday night, 7 p.m.; services, Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m., and 7:30 p.m.; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, evangelist; Mrs. Sue Luke, Philadelphia, music director; Martin Williams, pastor.

Eden (Yazoo): July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on ground; 7 each night; Bill Hutto, Mt. Vernon, Newton, evangelist; John Yates, Hillcrest, Jackson, music; Dennis Perry, pianist; Jim Pender, pastor.

Fayette (Union): July 28-Aug. 1; Sunday fellowship dinner followed by praise-sing service at 1:15; weekdays 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; messages by five area pastors; special music by local people; Paul Pearson, pastor.

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NEW AND USED

Devotional

Monday ministry

By Julian W. Fagan, III

... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Don't do it, just don't do it, don't you do it!" said a pastor-friend to me. "Why?" I asked.

"Because they won't listen to me. I'm a preacher. You're a lawyer, they'll listen to you."



Fagan

I was struggling to determine God's direction for my life, feeling he was calling me to minister as a pastor, yet here was a pastor saying more people would listen to a Christian as lawyer rather than as pastor. Was he right?

It really is not a question of his being right or wrong. He was expressing a truth he had learned. People, including the world and the church, have a conception that there is a vast difference in being a Christian serving as a pastor and a Christian serving as a lawyer, a nurse, a truck driver, a janitor, a school teacher, or a chemist. It is a traditional, historical, and cultural conception. It is not a biblical one. The attitude says things like he is called to "full-time service," he is licensed and ordained, he is the minister.

So we stand today in a role-oriented church where the ministry is enthroned, hired, designated, and often restricted to the church staff. The institutional church therefore "hires" its ministry and its members exclaim "we are going to church," which is one of the most misguided, unbiblical, and unthinking statements a redeemed sinner can make. Given the nature of language, we all understand multiple uses of words which includes "church." Yet our concept of ministry is so narrow that the minister is the preacher and the church is the building.

God does call his children to specific tasks in ministry. He calls each in accordance with the gifts he has bestowed upon and within each. He has called me to minister as a pastor. He also calls his children to minister as his followers in every area of life to meet the needs of the lost, to bring them to salvation through his gospel, and to meet the needs of the saved by guiding them through the truth of his Word. Your pastor and church staff are to be Christians called to minister and serve as leaders of other Christians. Their purpose is to proclaim God's Word and to equip the saints, the "holy ones," the Christians, to minister. You are to be the ministers. Christians, says God, are to minister.

Ever wonder why our world continues in moral decline and simultaneously more and more people claim to be "born-again." Churches grow bigger in number until they become "super," yet more marriages break apart, crime increases, and secularism and humanism are growing rampantly. It makes you wonder where are the ministers on Monday.

Well, if your ministers are down at the church and on Sunday you "go to church," there is very little salt and light in your town. But do you know what? If we Christians will begin to be the church as much as we like to "have church," and church staffs will equip Christians to become the ministers they are, there will be Monday ministry — and the world where we are put will know that Jesus is the answer.

Try this on Sunday morning as you leave the sanctuary — look up into heaven and say, "Father, thank you for strengthening me today in this time of worship. I go now to accomplish the ministry you have given me, in the place in your world you have put me. Thank you, Lord, for calling me as your minister today — and Monday."

Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

First, Jackson, will host exercise instructor workshop

First Church, Jackson will host an exercise instructor workshop for churches Aug. 16-17. Previous workshops have drawn leaders from churches all over the state.

Due to the demand, the church will also offer workshops at First Church, Oxford and Main Street, Hattiesburg, states Jim Baker, minister of activities.

The workshop is designed to develop leaders for fitness programs.

Each instructor will receive a cassette tape of choreographed aerobic and calisthenic routines, and a complete "how to" manual. Workshop participants will also receive special help in organizing, promoting, and using aerobic programs as an inreach and outreach tool in the local church.

Those interested in attending should contact Jim Baker, P. O. Box 1158,

Jackson, Miss. 39205 or phone (601-355-2911).

Lisa Baker, certified fitness specialist and choreographer for "aerobirhythms," will be leading instructor workshops at First Church, Oxford, Aug. 2-3; Main Street, Hattiesburg, Aug. 9-10, and First Church, Jackson, Aug. 16-17. Each workshop begins Friday afternoon and concludes Saturday afternoon.

Main Street will honor Mitchell

Main Street Church, Mendenhall, plans pastor appreciation day July 28. It will be the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Pastor Dewitt Mitchell.

Activities of the day will include Bible study at 9:45 a.m., worship service at 10:50 a.m., and lunch at the



East Columbia proclaims "Pastor Day"

Gerald Keith Gordon, center, was honored by East Columbia Church with "Pastor Appreciation Day." Jim Clark, left, chairman of the deacons, coordinated the day's events. J. Roy McComb, right, pastor of First Church, Columbia, was featured speaker. Thomas Blakeney, interim music director, coordinated the music phase of the services. A luncheon followed the morning service. During the afternoon, Philip Singley, district attorney, delivered a proclamation of appreciation and presented the pastor a check from the church.

Resolution honors pastor

East Columbia Church, Columbia, has adopted a resolution of appreciation for pastor Keith Gordon, stating that "since becoming our pastor, Brother Gordon has at all times exhibited those Christ-like characteristics of kindness, patience, forbearance, and love; giving no offense in anything, that the ministry be not blamed. He truly has the fruit of the Spirit, and we love him."

Gordon has been pastor at East Columbia Church since 1981. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary and is now studying toward a doctoral degree at New Orleans Seminary.

His former pastorates were at Union Church, Bay Springs; Big Creek, Soso; and Centerville Church.

Portrait, check honor Ishees at Plainway Church, Laurel

Plainway Church, Laurel, recently honored Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Ishee, at the time of his retirement. The church gave the Ishees a \$3,500 check, and Mrs. Inez Bryant presented a portrait of Harold Ishee, to be hung in the church foyer.



Ishee

Ishee was pastor at Plainway for 35 years. That was his only pastorate, and until April 7 of this year, he had been the church's only pastor.

People filled the sanctuary to capacity, to hear his last sermon before retirement. A reception was

church at 12:30 p.m.

The morning worship service will include a time of fellowship, singing, and testimonies in recognition of the pastor's sixth anniversary, a spokesman noted. A part of the service will be devoted to singing the pastor's favorite songs.

World missions leader Marie Mathis dies

(Continued from page 3)

term "Bold Mission." The emphasis and phrase caught on and grew beyond even her expectations.

Many posts of influential leadership associated many "firsts" and "onlys" with the name Marie Mathis.

She was the first woman to get honorary degrees from Mary Hardin-Baylor and Hardin Simmons Universities.

Mathis has been the only woman to address commencement at any Southern Baptist seminary.

She served as program chairman for the 1970 Baptist World Congress in

Tokyo, being the first and only woman to perform this task.

Mathis was a key leader in allowing WMU's Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings to be taken among all church members, a concept which helped make these the largest sources of funds for the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

A leader of distinguished achievement, Mathis placed great emphasis on the abilities of Baptist women and encouraged them to have a more prominent role in missions work. With this insight, she "left her handprints in the shape of Woman's Missionary Union's future," said WMU, SBC, Associate Executive Director Catherine Allen.

Funeral services were held at First Church, Dalhart, Texas. James Landes, former executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and David Walker, pastor of First Church, Dalhart, officiated.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Cleo Coffey, Jr. of Dalhart; three grandchildren, Dan Coffey, Robert Coffey, and Amy Coffey; and two great grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be contributed to the Mathis Memorial Fund, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala., and the Mathis Memorial Fund, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

D'Lesia Carroll writes for WMU, SBC.

Village names . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Center, Dallas; Presbyterian Children's home, Itasca, Tex.; and in college worked at the South Texas Baptist Children's Home.

Nowlin is a graduate of Baylor University, and received graduate training at Our Lady of the Lake College, San Antonio, Tex. He also has had training in marital counseling, management of the institutionalized child, the sexually abused child, and the practice of group psychotherapy.

Nowlin's wife, Claire, is director of the Department of Social Service at the Village.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory May 26 - June 25

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Katherine Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Swayze
Mr. Lee Morgan
Sr. Adult Sunday School,
Tylertown
Lucie Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Swayze
Sabrey Morgan
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Mrs. Clarice Van Norman
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Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan,
Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Polk
Mr. Major Passons
Mrs. Josephine Calcote
Mrs. Ed Bussey
Mrs. Howard (Edna) Patterson
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Margaret G. Ross Family
Mrs. Jessie Poole
Charline Killebrew
Elizabeth Porter
Mrs. Hazel T. Campbell
Miss Bertha Price
Mrs. Willie H. Smith
Lorena B. Newman
Mr. & Mrs. Dedrick Hart &
Family
Mr. A. R. Valentine
Mr. John A. Price
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley
Joan Patrick Proctor
Martha H. Ray
Mrs. Annie Putnam
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Till
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First Baptist Church, Water Valley

First Baptist Church, Water Valley, set the pace once Sunday offering by any church in our history." Nunnery again this year in the MOTHER'S DAY offering for The recently expressed gratitude to all Mississippi Baptist Baptist Children's Village. Under the direction of Rev. churches, groups, and individuals who have participated Guy Reedy, beloved pastor of First Baptist, Water Valley, in this year's offering. Compilation of the total the church gave \$11,572.00. According to Paul N. Nunnery, MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING is incomplete because Executive Director of The Village, "this is the largest one "posting is still being done." If you have not mailed yours please do so at your earliest convenience.



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Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *God's condemnation of Judah for breaking the covenant*
- Life and Work: *"God, answer me!"*
- Uniform: *God's inclusive love*

God's condemnation of Judah for breaking the covenant

By J. Gerald Harris
Jeremiah 11:1-8; 14:11-12; 15:1

Faithlessness and disobedience result in judgment. In Jeremiah's day Judah faced inevitable judgment because they had broken the covenant and joined themselves to idols. Today we are reminded of God's judgment in Ps. 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

I. The covenant of Judah (11:1-8) — Jeremiah is divinely directed to proclaim a message of warning and judgment against Judah for "obeying not the words of this covenant" (v. 3). There has been some controversy as to whether "this covenant" refers to the covenant made during King Josiah's reign after the book of the law was found or to the Mosaic covenant made at Sinai.

The issue is primarily academic, because the two covenants are essentially the same. However, the scriptural evidence points toward "this covenant" being the Mosaic covenant (v. 4). The significant thing is that there was a re-emphasis upon the Word of God and the covenant between Jehovah and Judah.

In support of this emphasis upon "the covenant" Jeremiah became an itinerant evangelist (v. 6). He proclaimed throughout the land the blessings of obedience to the law and the curse of disobedience.

For many years the prophets of God had been urging obedience to the

covenant (v. 7). The covenant was old, but still binding. The obligation of God's people to their pledge was still in effect. If something is inherently right once it is right forever. Truth does not change with age.

Judah had been given many opportunities to hear God's truth. Jeremiah proclaimed "all these words" (v. 6). Previous prophets had been found "rising early and protesting" (v. 7). God never sends judgment without giving people a multitude of chances to hear and respond.

America, too, has had her chances. We are much like the people of Judah in Jeremiah's day and the people of Capernaum in Jesus' day. Jesus did many of his mighty works in Capernaum. In fact, Capernaum was the headquarters for his ministry (Matt. 4:13). Yet, for all his preaching and miracles in Capernaum, Jesus was rejected. They didn't kick him out of the city like they did in Nazareth; they didn't crucify him like they did in Jerusalem; they simply gave him the cold shoulder. Therefore, Jesus pronounced judgment on Capernaum (Matt. 11:23). Consequently, the thought has been expressed, "If God doesn't judge America, he's going to have to raise up the people of Capernaum and apologize to them."

Judah failed to keep the covenant; thus, God said, "Cursed be the man

that obeyeth not the words of this covenant" (v. 3).

II. The command of Jehovah (14:11-12) — Jeremiah was a man of compassion and piety. Following in the train of Abraham, who prayed for Sodom (Gen. 18:23-32), and Moses and Samuel, who prayed for Israel (Ex. 32:11-14 and I Sam. 7:9-10), Jeremiah interceded for his people.

The command of Jehovah, however, was "Pray not for this people for their good" (v. 11). This is an awesome command. The people had broken the covenant, rejected the warning of the prophets, spurned the law of God, and had sinned away their day of grace. They had committed the sin unto death (I John 5:16). They had reached the point of no return. Since they refused to hear from Jeremiah when he spoke from God, God refused to hear from Jeremiah when he interceded for them.

III. The certainty of judgment (15:1) — Jeremiah continued his plaintive plea unto the Lord. He knew that God had answered the intercessory prayers of Moses and

No speech can be entirely bad if it is short enough.

The wages of sin are paid right on time.

A good sport is one who will always let you have your own way.

Samuel. His continued appeal to God reached a high pitch of emotion in 14:19 as he prayed, "Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul loathed Zion? . . . is there no healing for us? . . ."

Now (15:1-4) the stern, unyielding answer comes. God declares, "Cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth." Judah is rejected once and for all; not because God is stingy with his grace and unwilling to forgive, but because they have refused to repent

as in the days of Moses and Samuel. The future for Judah promises only death, the sword, famine, and captivity (15:2).

We must remember that, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise . . . but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, . . . But the day of the Lord (judgment) will come" (II Pet. 3:9-10a).

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

"God, answer me!"

By David W. Spencer
Job 29:1-6; 30:20-23; 31:35-37

I. Cultural context

For the most part, Job's words in these passages are in the form of laments. This is a common literary form in the Old Testament where an individual or a group addresses a complaint to God. Usually they begin with a plaintive cry of "Why?" or "How long?" The reason for the lament is usually a feeling that God has abandoned the person. These cries of Job reflect that same feeling of isolation and abandonment.

On what basis did Job think that God had abandoned him? It was quite simple, as Job expressed it in 29:1-6. In former days Job had many material blessings. Now he was broken and ruined. The prevailing theology of Job's day taught that material blessings are a sure sign that God is with you. Therefore, it's easy to see how Job could feel that God had abandoned him.

II. Key words

In 29:3 the words lamp and light are symbols of the blessings of God (See Psalms 4:6, 18:28; 27:1; 43:3, and 119:105). Don't miss the very poignant phrase in 29:5 "my children were around me." In the Hebrew text that phrase is rendered with just two words which add to the pathos of the situation. It is as though he could barely get the words out. Note the "stormy" language of 30:21-22. It presents a vivid picture of a man's being driven by a furious storm!

III. Interpretation

It has been a long and frustrating experience for Job who has repeatedly protested his innocence in the face of the accusations of his friends and of his own mind. He has tried to rationalize his predicament in every way. Now he has come to the conclusion that he has simply been abandoned by God. Not only does he think that God has brought ruin upon him, but now he also thinks that God has abandoned him without apology or explanation.

The blessedness of Job's former days and the barrenness of the present are evidence enough in Job's mind that God has abandoned him. It's hard enough for Job to accept the fact that God has taken away his

blessings, but the fact that God is now silent only irritates Job worse. In our final passage, Job rests his case still proclaiming his innocence and still not aware of the charges against him!

IV. Eternal truth

Like Job, we may find that there are times when God doesn't seem to answer our cries for help. How many times have we prayed fervently, but the answer was slow in coming? Have you ever just wanted to sit down with God for a heart-to-heart talk? Then you know a little about how Job felt.

We know from the prologue and the conclusion that God had not abandoned Job, that God was not directly responsible for Job's suffering, and that God still had great things in store for Job. Additionally, we have the New Testament which shows us God's walking the earth in flesh, comforting the broken-hearted, hearing the prayers of the suffering, and bringing good out of chaos. Yes, God does hear us, though we may think he doesn't sometimes. As a matter of fact, God has heard our deepest prayers for forgiveness, significance, peace, security, and grace and has answered with Jesus!

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

God's inclusive love

By Anthony S. Kay
Jonah 4

God has chosen the book of Jonah to reveal some central truths about himself. It would seem to this writer that he sees the tendencies of Jonah in himself and others all too frequently. We will do well to reflect on the teachings of this fourth chapter as it tells us something about an opinionated man, a welcomed gourd and a loving God.

I. An opinionated man. It is no secret by now to the reader of the book of Jonah that God is dealing with a stubborn and prejudiced individual. The act of forgiveness by God to repentant Nineveh was very displeasing to Jonah. Even though he voiced this displeasure by way of prayer, like many of us, Jonah told God what he didn't like about His work.

Because of his racial, social and religious prejudices, Jonah instead of rejoicing over the repentance of the people of Assyria, became angry with God. God was just what Jonah had expected — a God of mercy and forgiveness. The Hebrew language gives a picturesque portrayal of God's nature when it actually states that God is "long of nostril and slow to

snort." Jonah can't see beyond his own feelings and they block out God's truth.

II. A welcomed gourd. God uses something so simple as a gourd to teach a profound truth. The angry prophet was sulking over God's loving kindness to Nineveh and sought peace in his own soul by asking God to take his life. God didn't do that. Jonah then sat outside the city to watch what God would do. God prepared a gourd to grow up over Jonah to give him shade (this was probably the castor oil plant, which with its large leaves would offer needed shade.) Jonah was happy to have this respite from the sun. He welcomed this relief.

III. A loving God. God chose this time to teach Jonah a very important lesson. The gourd was struck down by a worm and God allowed a vehement wind, the sirocco, to come upon Jonah. This east wind is an exceedingly hot, dry movement of air, causing simultaneously a sharp rise in temperature and fall in humidity. It is at best a very trying time.

Jonah was angry over the circumstances and especially the loss of his gourd shade. God asks him, as he did earlier, "Doest thou well to be

angry for the gourd?" (v. 9). He responded that he had every reason to be angry. God then proceeds to give him the lesson that climaxes this book. God tells Jonah that "you have pity on a gourd for which you did nothing to make it grow. What about Nineveh, Jonah?" This is the question that all of us must answer: What about the Russians, the blacks, the Jews, the outcasts, etc.? As J. Wash Watts, my distinguished professor of Old Testament, stated in his book, *A Survey of Old Testament Teaching*, Vol. II, the primary purpose of the book of Jonah is to teach the value of souls, not gourds. We must never lose sight of God's love for all men and rather than being obstacles and hindrances in communicating that love, we must be partners with God in sharing his love.

Share his love by telling what the Lord has done for you,

Share his love by sharing of your faith,

And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you

Ev'ry moment, ev'ry day.

W. J. Reynolds

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